The Shakerite

harlem
RENAISSANCE

"I really had no idea what African-American History Month was all about before this," said junior Maggie Morris.

Find out, page 10

February 25, 2000 • Volume 70 • Issue 5 • Shaker Heights High School • 15911 Aldersyde Drive • Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Back after five years

• Outcome of March 7 levy vote will dictate district financial health

By Joseph Tartakoff
Staff reporter

Faced with stagnant income and growing expenses, Shaker Heights will vote March 7 on a school levy which will define the district's financial stability for the next three years.

"If the levy is not passed, programs and services could be cut. Whenever a school levy fails there are consequences," District Communications Director Peggy Caldwell said.

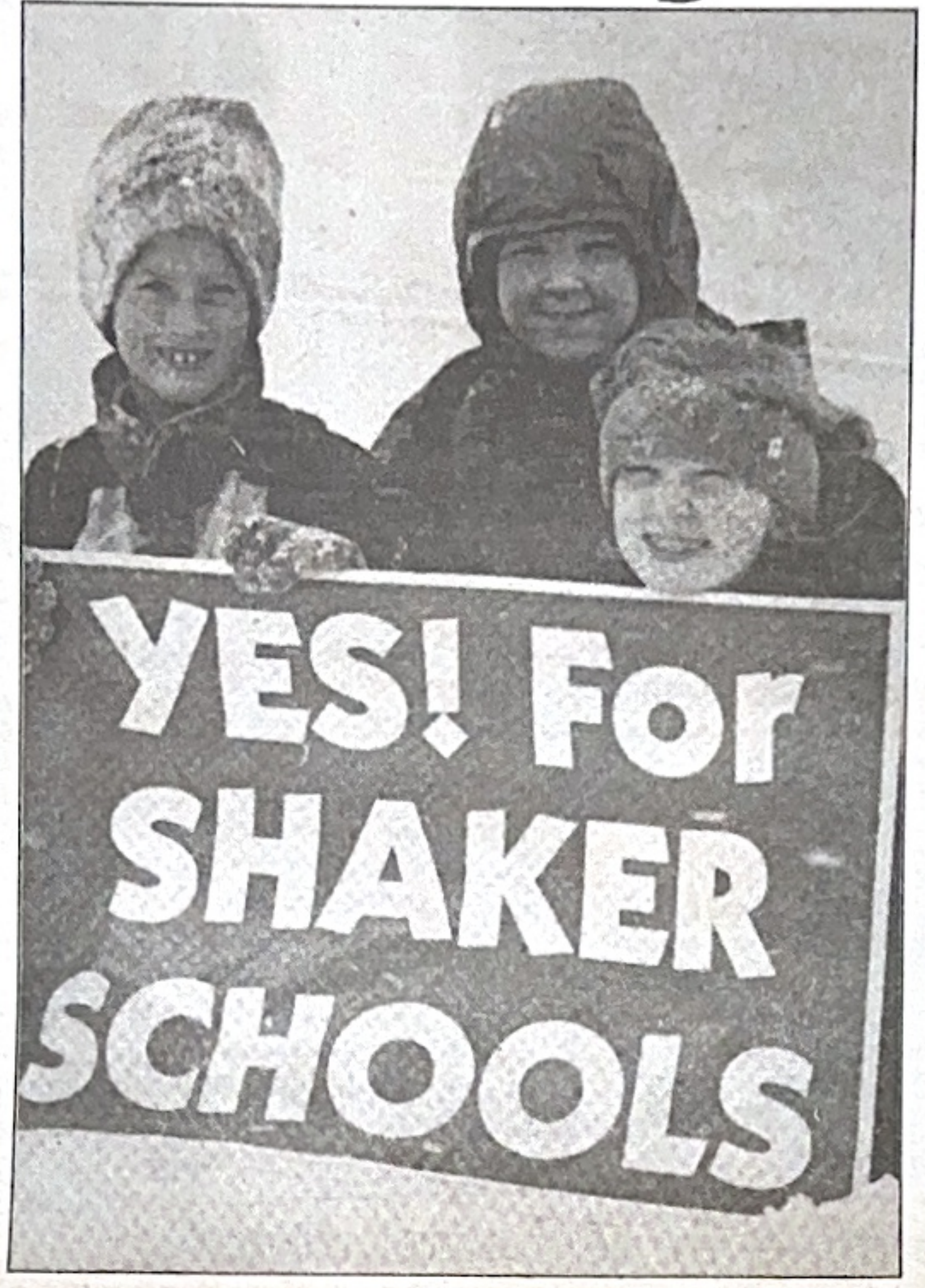
It is estimated that at current operating conditions, *a levy failure would result in a $752,253 deficit in the 2000-*2001 school year.

According to state law, school districts cannot operate at deficits. Therefore, Shaker would have to make major cuts in personnel to stay afloat.

The drastic effects of levy cuts were recently illustrated in Cleveland Heights - University Heights, whose school levy failed in November. Since then, the district has eliminated 70 employees, and cuts have been made in transportation services.

"This levy must be passed. We cannot have *what happened in Cleveland Heights*

SEE VOTE, PAGE 2



Marry O'Connell/The Shakerite

Young Shaker students huddle up behind a pro-levy sign in the midst of February snow. The Committee for Shaker Schools, comprising community members who support the levy, organized the sign campaign for the March ballot.

A test of levy savvy

Common questions about the March levy answered.

false
LEVY MONEY WILL BE USED TO RENOVATE THORNTON PARK

true
LEVY MONEY CANNOT BE USED FOR CITY PROJECTS

false
LAST LEVY MONEY WAS USED TO BUILD NEW GYM

true
THE NEW GYM WAS BUILT ON A BOND ISSUE

true
LEVY MONEY CANNOT BE USED FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

false
LEVY REQUESTS MORE FREQUENT THAN IN PAST

true
MARCH LEVY IS FIRST IN FIVE YEARS, PAST LEVIES HAVE BEEN ON BALLOT EVERY TWO OR THREE YEARS

Raider missing from new gym

✗ Rumors of Shaker Raider symbol changing abound

By Allison Pollock
Co-editor in Chief

Students and teachers have become suspicious that a change in the school mascot is iminent because the raider it did not appear anywhere in the newly renovated north gym.

According to Carlton Moody, executive director of business and personnel, the raider mascot was not in the district's plans when building the new gym.

"It was never planned to put it in there," Moody said.

However, he said the architect put the raider mascot in the original rendering merely to mirror the old gym's design. He added that the decision to omit the *raider from the new gym was not in*dicative of a plan to change the mascot.

Athletic department officials said they have not been informed of any future changes in the mascot and don't have any plans to change it.

"We haven't been notified from the administration that there will be a change," Athletic Director Susan Brown said. "We're keeping the mascot *unless we're told otherwise.*"

NEW GYM, NORAIDER

SHAKER
HEIGHTS

Raider poised in south gym.

Mascot absent from north gym.

Fugitive life began in St. Louis, went through Arizona, ended *in jail*

By Carmel Pryor
Staff reporter

In 1966, Howard Mechanic graduated from Shaker Heights High School as a National Merit Scholar and part of the *Gristmill* staff.

In February of 2000, Mechanic was uncovered as Gary Tredway and arrested for participating in a 1968 anti-war riot.

After graduating from high school, Mechanic went to Washington University in St. Louis. During that time there were frequent protests against the Vietnam War, similar to the May 4, 1970, shooting in which Ohio National Guardsmen killed four students at Kent State University.

Soon, Mechanic found himself involved in a protest of his own. As a firefighter was trying to extinguish a fire at the Air Force ROTC building in St. Louis, Mechanic threw a live firecracker at him. Although no one was injured he was charged under a 1968 anti-riot statute

SEE FUGITIVE, PAGE 3

WHO WAS HOWARD MECHANIC, AKA GARY TREDWAY?

Gristmill Photo

Howard Mechanic (upper right) began his life in politics at a young age when he was in Student Council at Shaker. Little did he know his life in politics would get him in trouble.

> *"His name would come up in conversations and I wondered what happened to him, and now we know."*
>
> **GEORGE GELEHRTER**
> '66 alumnus

> *"There were millions of Howards all over America at that time."*
>
> **TERRY POLLACK**
> social studies teacher

Pollack

FRESHMEN EXAMINE LOVE

Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

"Examined on Love" will play in the large auditorium tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. This year's edition of the annual freshman play consists of music by Luke Rinderknecht, a script by David Hassler and Jean Reinhold and the production experience of James Thornton.

Psychology fairs well in March

• Students to promote psychological health and well being March 13-17

By Karen Jenks
News co-editor

For the first year ever, Shaker will be celebrating Psychology Awareness Week, a week in March devoted to educating people across the nation about the benefits of psychological health and well being.

"It tells them [students] about themselves," said psychology teacher Baird Wiehe. "That's all psychology is."

The high schools will take part in educating students about what psychology is about by broadcasting facts about the human mind over the P.A. and posting signs around the school the week of March 13. The week culminates with an day-long psychology fair, to be held in the library.

The fair will be akin to Shaker's Math Fair, with demonstrations and experiments situated in the library, manned by senior psychology students.

"We want to show people that psych is really a lot of fun," senior Aaron Viny said.

Besides promoting awareness of psychological health, the Psychology Fair will offer a chance for juniors and sophomores to gain an interest in psychology.

SEE PSYCH, PAGE 2

Perception Test

On a piece of paper:

- Write down your favorite color and favorite animal.
- In three words for each, describe why you chose them as your favorites.

Analysis:

The three words about color describe you, and the words about the animal indicate what others think of you

Chicken products recalled

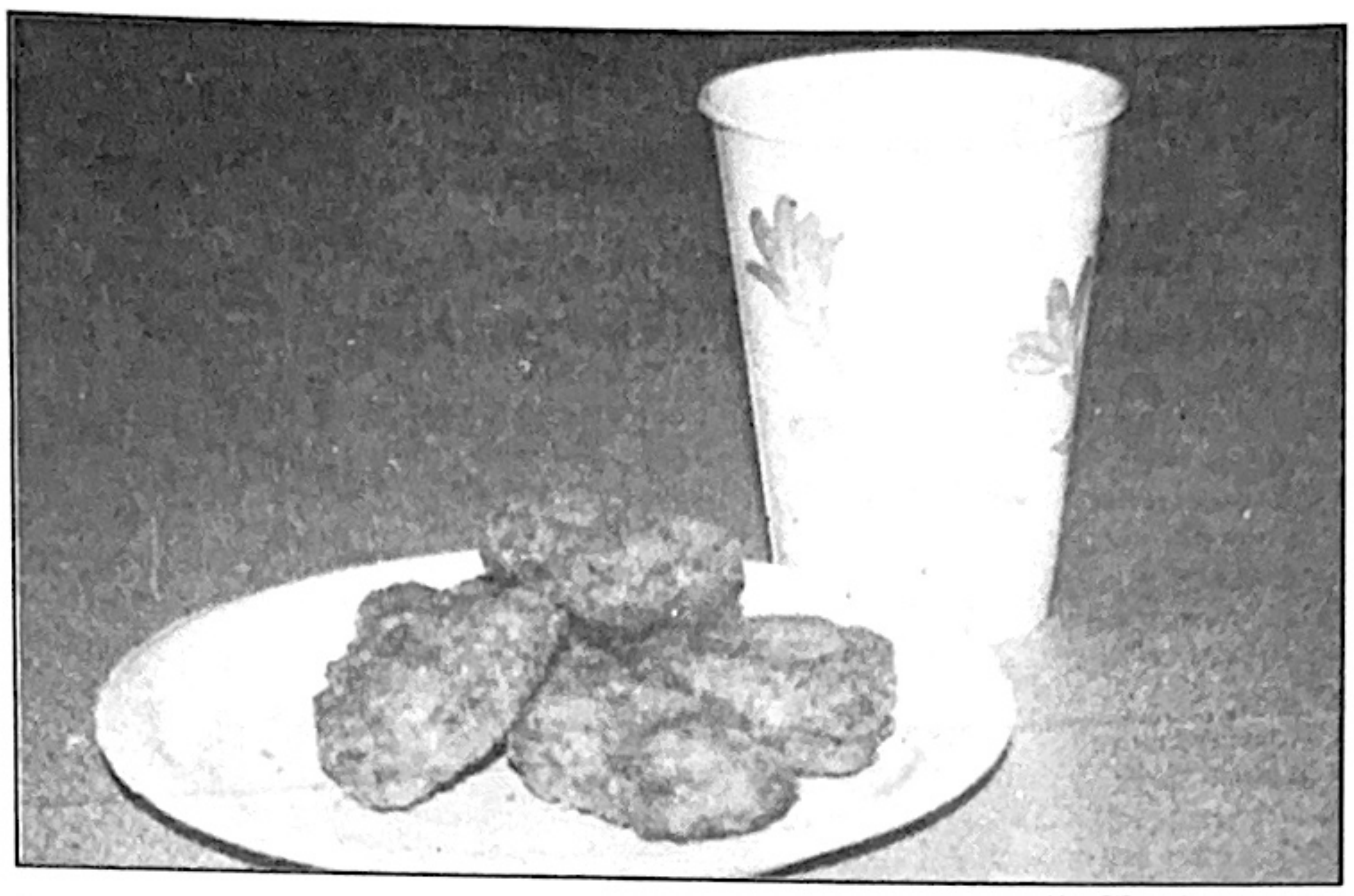
• Health risk posed by infected meat forces district to shelf items

By Zach Weil
Webpage editor

Feel like chicken tonight? Or how about for lunch at school? If you said "yes," a recent USDA report might change your mind.

According to the report, chicken nuggets and patties, which Shaker and other Ohio schools held was holding in a cold storage area outside of Columbus, contained meat from chickens with infected sores and bruises.

The meat is supplied by Gold Kist, a meat processing plant in Alabama, which is a contractor of the national school lunch program. The patties and nuggets were then distributed to schools on a need basis, at heavily subsidized prices. Shaker received five cases of the infected chicken, enough for a single day's lunch in the cafeteria.



Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

A recent USDA report showed that chicken nuggets and patties supplied by Gold Kist contained meat from chickens with infected sores and bruises. Shaker purchased some of the infected meat, but food managers have decided not to use it.

A memo sent on Feb. 8 from the Ohio state board of education warned school districts of the potential problem. The state then conducted tests for bacterial levels on the frozen foodstuffs. The results have not yet been announced. Although thoroughly cooking the meat would effectively eliminate all bacteria, most of the districts, including Shaker and Cleveland, resolved not to serve the cafeteria favorite.

Most students agree with the district's decision.

"You can cook it to be safe, but it's still disgusting," senior Gala Copez-Sanders said.

Senior Brad Thomas agreed.

"You can eat a cooked worm without getting a disease, but it's still gross," Thomas said.

Administrators responded to students' concerns.

"We decided it was not worth the risk," Shaker assistant business manager and food services director Fred Shalhoup said. "To my knowledge everybody pulled [the chicken]. Why take the risk of getting someone sick?"

USDA spokeswoman Carol Blake denies that the chicken poses a health risk.

"They may not look as pretty," Blake said of the chicken, "but they do not pose a health risk."

Shaker ordinarily buys its poultry in bulk from well-known suppliers such as Tyson and Purdue but accepted the subsidized items because the nuggets and patties were such popular items.

• Shaker's March levy will determine three year budget

VOTE
FROM PAGE 1

happen in Shaker. We cannot cut back on transportation and other services for Shaker kids," freshman William Benish said.

The Committee for the Shaker Schools is running a campaign to pass the Shaker levy.

"Our first step was to talk to the leadership of Shaker and enlist their support. Then we went to the library board and the PTO and presented our position to all of them," said John Murphy, a Shaker parent and a leader of the committee.

"We then called registered voters and asked them if they had any questions about the levy. We have also embarked on a yard sign and mailing campaign," Murphy said.

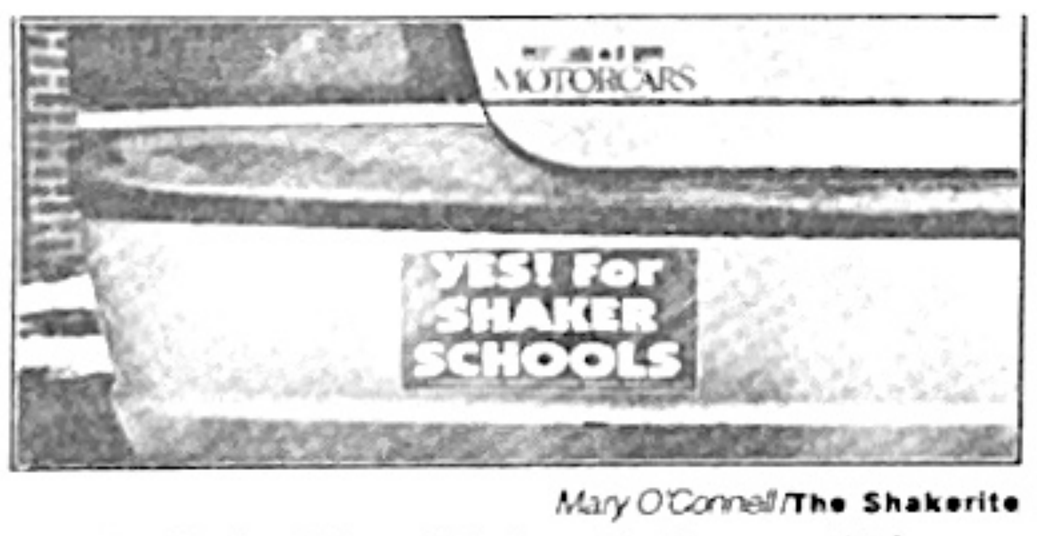
The school levy will be Shaker's first in five years.

In 1996 Shaker passed a bond levy, but those funds can only be used for capital improvements.

"The money from the bond issue was strictly for repairs to the buildings. It did not fund teacher salaries or the purchase of textbooks. The district's biggest expense is personnel," Caldwell said.

Almost 81 percent of the district's revenue, or $46.5 million, comes from property taxes. With taxes already high, many Shaker residents do not support the levy.

"The taxes in Shaker are already the highest in the state. I do not believe that enough effort is being made to control the school board's expenses. The district is already spending $10,500 per student. They want to raise that. There doesn't seem to be an end in sight," said Arthur Merms, father of two Shaker graduates.



Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

"Yes for Shaker Schools" adorns the bumper of this car.

"I'm against higher taxes, not against the schools. I think that the Shaker schools should tighten their belts. If they determine that the schools need more money, cuts should be made somewhere," said Robert Crowl, a new Shaker resident and father of two-year old twins.

Shaker's last levy in 1995 was defeated once before being passed.

The levy would generate an additional $6.5 million annually for the district. The increase would primarily support growing salaries.

Because of a 1976 law, House Bill 920, Ohio school districts cannot collect more tax money as property values increase without calling for a levy. In Shaker, with a growing demand for homes, property values have risen 45.6% over the last decade.

Many students are rallying in support of the levy.

"I hope the levy passes, but I really do not think it will. Only a small percentage of Shaker residents have kids in the school system. I don't think that those who don't have kids in the schools are willing to pay more taxes and vote for it," senior Adam Moore said.

"I know our schools spend a lot of money. I think that the more money they spend, the better. I'm going to vote for the levy," said senior Andrea Abramoff.

Caldwell said if the levy were to fail, it would reappear on the ballot in the near future.

Student involvement in levy:

- **Placing "Yes for Shaker schools" signs on lawns**

"Having signs up shows how many people in the community support the levy." ~Alder Brannin, senior

- **Participating in a phone bank**

"I did the phone bank. Shaker's given me a lot and I wanted to return the favor." ~Sarah Kangas, senior

- **Passing out stickers and brochures.**

"It feels good to give back to the community and I enjoy helping out Shaker schools."~Jaron Santelli, junior

- **Working the polls on election day.**

"I'm working the polls. It's a good way to get government hours and affect the election." ~Courtney Harrison, senior

• Psychology Awareness Week to be celebrated at Shaker, March 13-17

PSYCH
FROM PAGE 1

"We're aiming for juniors who will have the opportunity to take psychology next year," Viny said.

Experiments will vary, from personality tests to visual illusions to the possibility of a hypnotist. Posters will feature experiments designed to demonstrate the interdependence of the eye and the brain. Experiments that show different aspects of psychology will be conducted at the fair. One experiment tests students' ability to separate visual images from intangible ideas, such as the color purple from the word, "purple." Personality tests will also be conducted, including a questionnaire that determines whether or not the subject is schizophrenic. Intelligence tests will also be conducted in the library. In addition to the demonstrations done by seniors, there will also be booths set up that the visitors can do themselves.

"What you can get out of it is some of the mysteries about what reality is," Wiehe said.

Shaker plants tree in Chang's memory

NEWS BRIEFS

A ceremony will be held to honor the memory of Penny Chang outside the public library on the anniversary of her death, March 16.

"The goal is to beautify a place where a terrible tragedy took place and to honor the life of someone's life who was cut short," District commnications directorPeggy Caldwell said.

The ceremony will take place in the community park at the southwest corner of Van Aken Blvd and Lee Road.

According to Caldwell, the site was chosen for several reasons: it is adjecent to the library where Penny spent many hours, and it is close to the sight of her death.

The tree, a pink Chinese dogwood, was selected in honor of Penny's Chinese heritage, and will be planted at 4 p.m. on March 16.

"It's important for the community and especially the students to come together on the anniversary of her death to have support for one another," Caldwell said.

Meghan Dubyak

Bomb threat fails to faze high school

On Wednesday, Jan 5., high school staff discovered traces of obscenities and a bomb threat on a study hall chalkboard at the high school.

After informing the Shaker Heights Police Department, the high school's security staff and maintenance department, the entire building was searched thoroughly. Nothing was found to substantiate the threats. The police declared that there was no credible threat.

Throughout the search, school continued unabated. Staff and students were informed of the incident during a seventh period announcement, and letters were sent to all staff and student families explaining the situation.

The student responsible was suspended, and has since been expelled. According to the student, the incident was meant to be a joke, and was not intended to bring harm to anyone. It is the view of the administration, however, that threats such as these are serious whether committed in jest or not.

"Whether intended as a prank or not, it is a crime to make such threats, not to mention a disruption to the orderly operation of our school," Interim Principal Jerry Mitchell said in his letter to the school community.

Karen Jenks

Hockey complaint remains unresolved

In response to a gender bias complaint filed by Eric Kinkopf on behalf of his sophomore daughter Abra, the Kinkopfs and officials from the Shaker Heights school board met in a mediation session on January 12.

According to Kinkopf, "not much was resolved" at the meeting.

The complaint that Kinkopf filed last November with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights stated that Kinkopf's hockey-playing daughter was being excluded from the team.

Kinkopf's complaint was filed under Title IX, which states that no student participating in a federally-funded activity may be discriminated against based on gender.

According to Kinkopf, Carlton Moody, Shaker's district Title IX officer, had requested that the high school athletic department answer some questions pertaining to the complaint in December, but by the mediation session the department had not responded.

Moody said that the mediation session was not meant to come to final solutions, just to discuss the problems. He said that two representatives from the Office of Civil Rights, the Kinkopfs and himself attended the meeting.

Kinkopf said that once the complaint was filed, Abra has played in a few games. However, she continues to miss team meetings, which are held in the boys' locker room before or after games.

Kinkopf is still not happy about the situation.

"I'm sure the situation hasn't improved one bit," Kinkopf said.

Karen Jenks

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NEWS AROUND!

Fed Challenge and JETS students go for the gold

By Meghan Dubyak
News co-editor

From physics to economics, Shaker students are competing and winning in academic centered events.

Federal Reserve Challenge, an economics competition and Junior Engineering Techincal Society (JETS), which focuses on physics and engineering, are two such events that Shaker students compete in.

The Federal Reserve Challenge team evaluates the current state of the economy by giving 15 minute presentations and making a recommendation to the Federal Reserve Board regarding the economy. They are then questioned by judges who are economists on the Federal Reserve Board.

"It was a chance to learn economics better," senior Fed Challenge participant Jon Munetz said. "It was exciting because the people that you're presenting to are experts in their field."

Shaker students placed first and third in Cleveland.

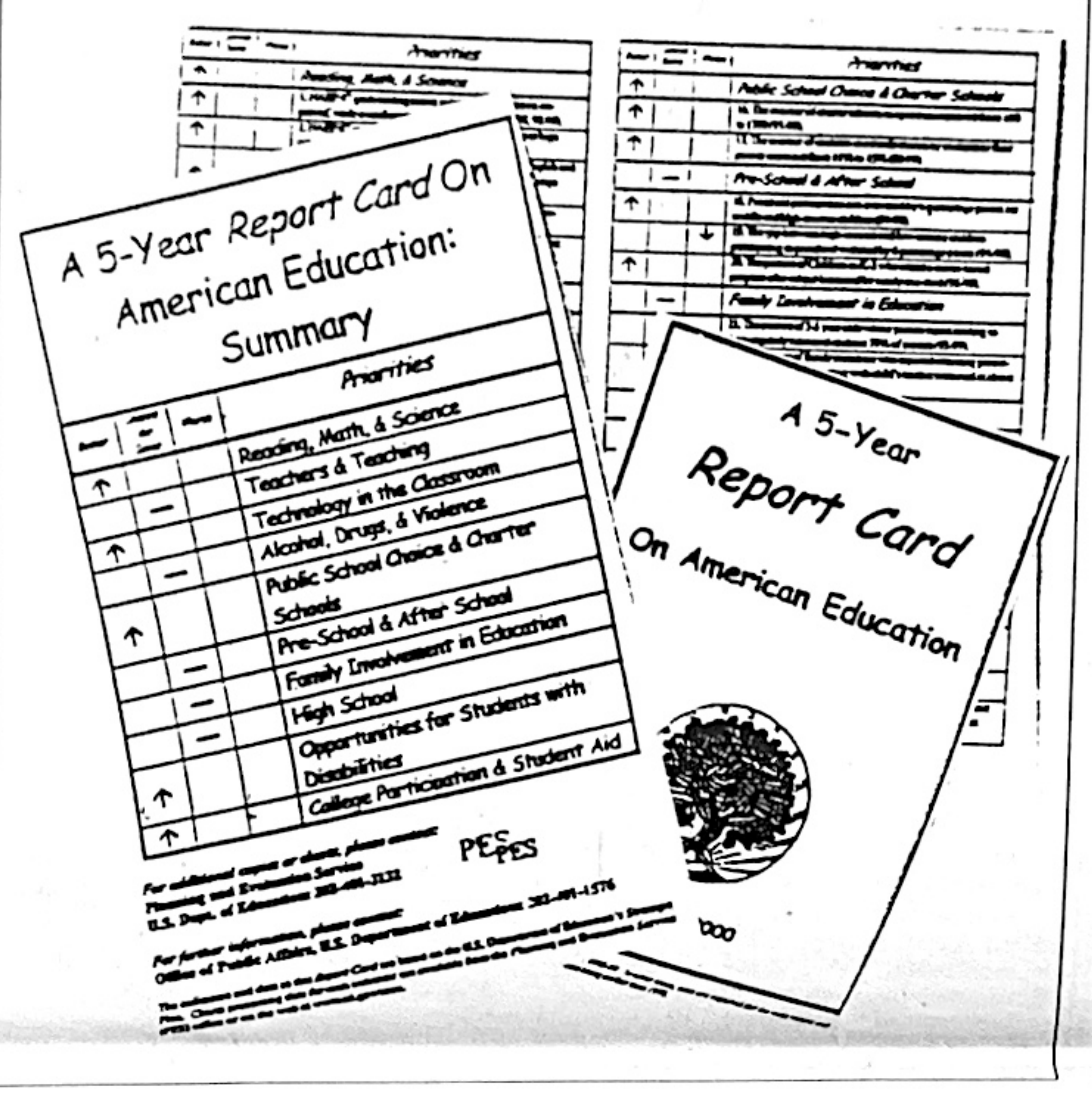
The first place team will compete again on March 17 against the winners of the Pittsburgh and Cincinnati regions. If they win, each student, and adviser, Diana Jones, will win $4,000. They will also win a free to Washington, DC to compete in the national competition.

The winning team members competing on the 17th are seniors Beth Dolinsky, Austin Frank, Alex Kolb, Jon Munetz and Gordon Scott.

JETS is a competition in which students take a multiple choice and free response test regarding physics, chemistry and engineering which is scored on the local, state and national level.

The Shaker team comprising seniors Jeremy Cohen, Whitney Karfeld, Amit Ranade, Sarah Ronis, Dashi Singham and Biz Turnell and juniors Phil Wallach and Chris Ryder, tied for first in the region. Their scores have been sent to the state and national level for evaluation.

"It's a good prepartation if you want to go into engineering," Karfeld said. "The problems you attempt are real-life applications of science."



A 5-Year Report Card On American Education: Summary

Priorities

Reading, Math, & Science
Teachers & Teaching
Technology in the Classroom
Alcohol, Drugs, & Violence
Public School Choice & Charter Schools
Pre-School & After School
Family Involvement in Education
High School
Opportunities for Students with Disabilities
College Particiaption & Student Aid

A 5-Year Report Card On American Education

PES
Public School Choice & Charter Schools
Pre-School & After School
Family Involvement in Education

State of American Education address hits close to home

By Justin Gurney and Anahid Thompson
Managing editor and opinion co-editor

"Never give up on a child or destroy his future with low expectations," United States Secretary of Education Richard Riley said during his seventh annual State of American Education address Feb. 22.

U.S. Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones invited area teachers, students, PTA members and others to view the address via satellite, at Cuyahoga Community College and to participate in a follow-up discussion.

Riley spoke from a North Carolina high school. He noted the effects of low expectations on minority students and the need to decrease the achievement gap between races and socioeconomic classes. He also commented on school violence.

"Not a day goes by that I don't think about Columbine," Riley said. He proposed that a kid who brings a gun to school should be immediately removed, but no kid should be thrown out on the street and deprived of education. He added that schools need to decide how to get these kids the help they need. He also had a message for parents. "Slow down your lives and listen to what your children are saying."

Riley presented a five year report card on American education, spoke of the nation's progress and also future plans to continue improvement. The five year report card shows schools have improved in reading, math and science, technology, disabled student's opportunities and college participation, but teaching, alcohol, drugs, violence, pre-schools, family involvement and high schools need improvement. Riley spoke vehemently about raising standards of education to increase chances of success amongst America's youth.

"Quality education for every child is a new civil right for the 21st century," Riley proclaimed.

Riley also discussed was a plan to allow better teacher compensation and teachers working year long. This plan entails teachers taking the summer months to plan and work toward the success of their students. In turn, teachers will earn more money.

Riley also wants better tests than standardized tests to measure education and states to create more challenging courses. The ultimate goal is the improvement of schools and to get more kids into college.

This means education must start at a young age for Shaker children and children across the nation. And as Riley said, parents must "read, read and read" to children when they are young and make a positive difference.

Ohio law grants 17-year-olds opportunity to vote in presidential primaries

By Lisa Samols
Co-editor in chief

In 1971, the United States Congress approved a Constitutional amendment making 18-year-olds eligible to vote in all elections. But a little-known clause in the Ohio Constitution allows 17-year-olds to vote under certain circumstances.

So far, 184 Shaker students have taken advantage of this opportunity to voice their opinions at the polls.

According to American government teacher Cameron Buckland, students who are 17 before the March 7 primaries and 18 before the November elections are eligible to vote in the primaries. Students who are 17 by the election date will be allowed to vote for the Presidential candidates, but not for any issues, such as the school levy. This is to let those who will be eligible to vote in the final presidential election participate from the very beginning, despite their age at the time.

Buckland

A new Ohio law has facilitated school voter registration.

"Any registered person can register others to vote," Buckland said.

Previously, only a resident registrar was able to register voters. The new law lets social studies teachers register students.

Registration at Shaker has exceeded expectations based on past registration totals. Buckland says that the presidential election raised the numbers.

"There have been more students registering because of the Presidential election, and the levy," Buckland said, "but the Presidential election more than anything."

Despite the increased student voting, some still think that the American voting system is not used as much as it could be.

"I think a lot of Americans have a lot of complaints about the government but don't want to do anything about it," senior Jeremy Moore said.

Though the primaries registration deadline has passed, students have the chance to register for future elections.

"I'm not going to concern myself with the primaries just yet," said senior Armand Hayes. "The candidates right now haven't interested me in anything yet, but when the presidential election comes around, that's when I'll be interested."

• '66 Shaker grad apprehended in Arizona

FUGITIVE
FROM PAGE 1

for interrupting law officers during civil disorder.

After his appeal failed in 1972, Mechanic fled and became Gary Robert Tredway of Scottsdale, Arizona. After marrying and having children, Mechanic decided to run for City Council. When local news reporters questioned his background he admitted his fake identity and turned himself in to U.S Marshals.

Terry Pollack, current social studies teacher who had Mechanic as a student, commented on the arrest of his former student and related it to high school today.

"It was the peak of the Civil Rights Movement and kids were drafted to the war. There were millions of Howards all over America at that time," he said. "Today kids are filled with apathy and are self-centered. [Students today] are truly a reflection of the 'I-me' generation and Howard was a reflection of the times then."

"Today kids are filled with apathy and are self-centered. [Students today] are truly a reflection of the 'I-me' generation and Howard was a reflection of the times then."

TERRY POLLACK
social studies teacher

George Gelehrter, who graduated with Mechanic and went to college with his twin brother Harvey, said, "His name would come up in conversations and I wondered what happened to him and now we know." He later added that if one runs for public office, "people are going to look in your background and if they don't find one- that's going to look kind of funny."

Mechanic was sentenced to five years in prison for his 1968 crime and for using a false social security number.

Describing life as a fugitive, Mechanic said to the Mesa, Arizona *Tribune*, "You're always looking over your shoulder. Every time the phone rings you wonder, 'Is this going to be the call?' It never leaves your mind."

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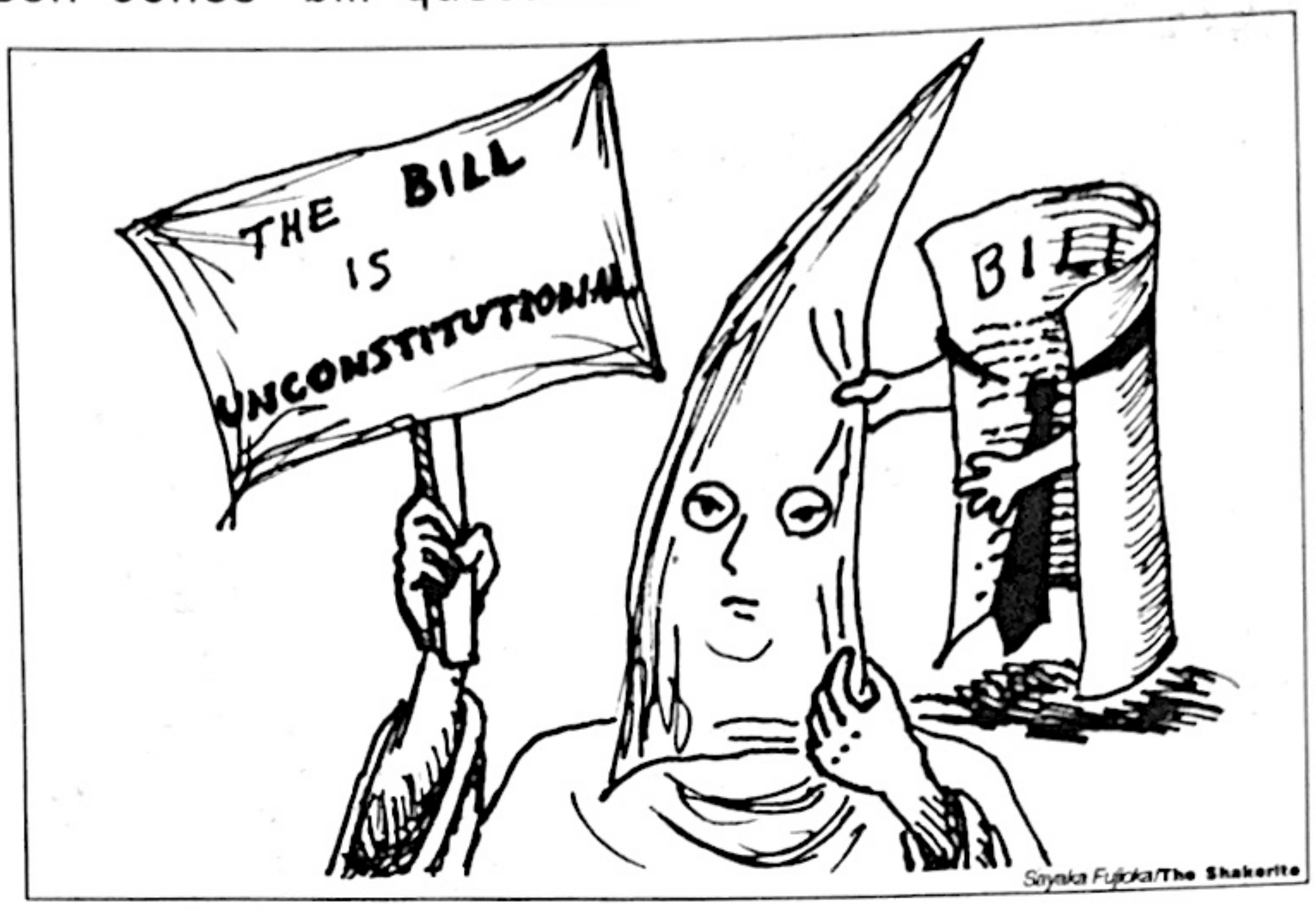
Trish Smythe Marshall, President

Proposed bill would un-mask Klan

• Constitutionality of Lawson Jones' bill questioned while heading to Ohio House of Representatives

By Jennifer Broadbent
Staff reporter



Sayaka Fujioka/The Shakerite

If everything goes as State Representative Peter Lawson Jones hopes, organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan will soon be prohibited from wearing masks while protesting.

"I was troubled about the way the cities of Cleveland and Columbus handled the Klan rally," Lawson Jones said.

The city of Cleveland went farther to accommodate the Klan than the Constitution obligates them to, according to Lawson Jones.

In December, Lawson Jones introduced a bill to the Ohio House of Representatives that would curb the annonymous nature of Ku Klux Klan rallies.

House Bill 521 would make it illegal for political demonstrators to wear masks or any other related items that would disguise identities.

The bill does make an exception if the gathering is for entertainment purposes. For example, the bill would not restrict the operation of formal parades.

Senior Emily Ackerman was concerned that the bill might be unconstitutional.

"Although I disagree with the KKK, wearing masks is part of the First Amendment giving the right to protest. They should be allowed to wear masks unless they are violent," Ackerman said.

Lawson Jones countered, saying, "there is no constitutional right that is absolute."

"The law is OK as longs as it applies for everyone and doesn't discriminate against one group," freshman Nathaniel Moore said.

Lawson Jones got the idea for the bill after hearing that New York City used a similar law to unmask the Klan. As a result, smaller numbers of Klansmen came to demonstrate this summer in New York City.

The 150-year-old ordinance in New York City was challenged in federal courts but was upheld in October. Currently, at least 18 other states have anti-masking laws in the books.

Lawson Jones wants to pass this bill because "the hood has been used to protect [the Klan's] identity and to intimidate and strike fear in those they oppose."

The new bill does not censor rallies or prohibit the Klan from gathering.

Lawson Jones' hope is that the unmasking will lessen the number of gatherings and participants, or at least bring less public attention to the Klan.

Some House committee members think the proposal has gone too far, and questions have also been raised about effects on other groups such as gay rights activists.

Gay rights activists sometimes wear disguises to protect themselves from discrimination in the work place.

If the bill is approved, groups such as these will not be allowed to protest with face coverings.

Students have mixed feelings.

"I think it is completely good to create the bill because if they commit any crimes they will be identified," freshman Brandon McCafferty said.

However, some students disagreed.

"I do not think that there should be a bill. It doesn't make a difference if the KKK wears masks or not," junior Kelly Baker said.

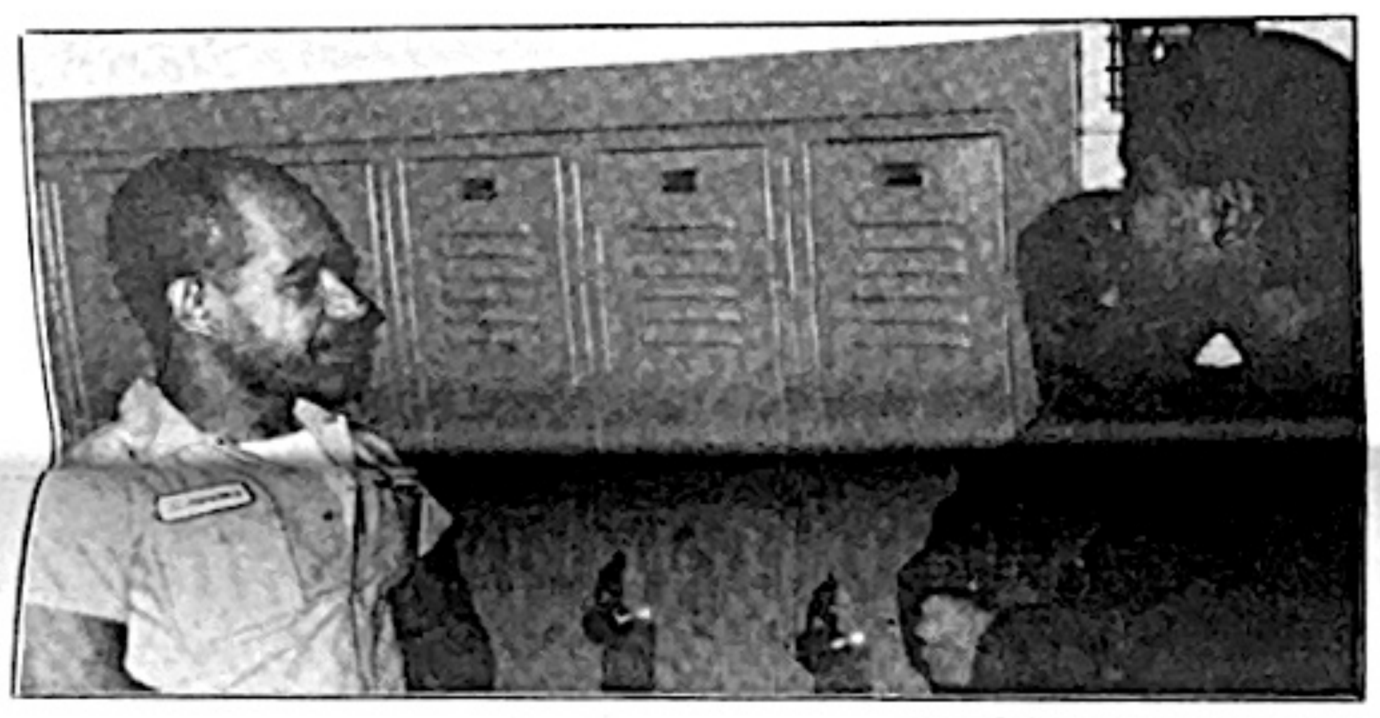
Junior Maya Bakshani agreed with Baker.

"I don't agree with the KKK," Bakshani said, "but then again I don't think that he [Lawson Jones] can take away their right to freedom of speech."

Custodian says Cuban boy needs dad

• Native Cuban Sanchez evaluates Elian Gonzales story

By Meryl Kramer
Exchange editor


Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

Custodian Carlos Sanchez, a native of Cuba, interacts with students. Sanchez thinks Elian Gonzales should be able to go back to Cuba.

The Elian Gonzales story is hard to avoid.

"Here they are looking at it from the political side. Some look at him and see him as a boy without a fa- [illegible] like a political tool, which is not right," *said Carlos Sanchez, a custodian at Shaker who came from Cuba in 1980.*

Sanchez doesn't believe that Elian should remain despite the material posessions he could receive.

Sanchez believes that the boy should be free to go back and forth between countries because it is not fair that he will never see his father again. He feels this is important.

"I know Cuba is not a paradise as far as economics. The economy is very down and he may make a better future here with more material stuff and opportunity. I think people here are only looking at the material things and not looking at love. [Some Americans] don't look at it from the love side. I look at both sides," Sanchez said.

Sanchez said he tries to ignore the political aspect of the story.

Instead, he places himself in the situation to see how he would feel if his own child was taken to another country.

If something tragic were to happen, Sanchez said, "I would want my son back!"

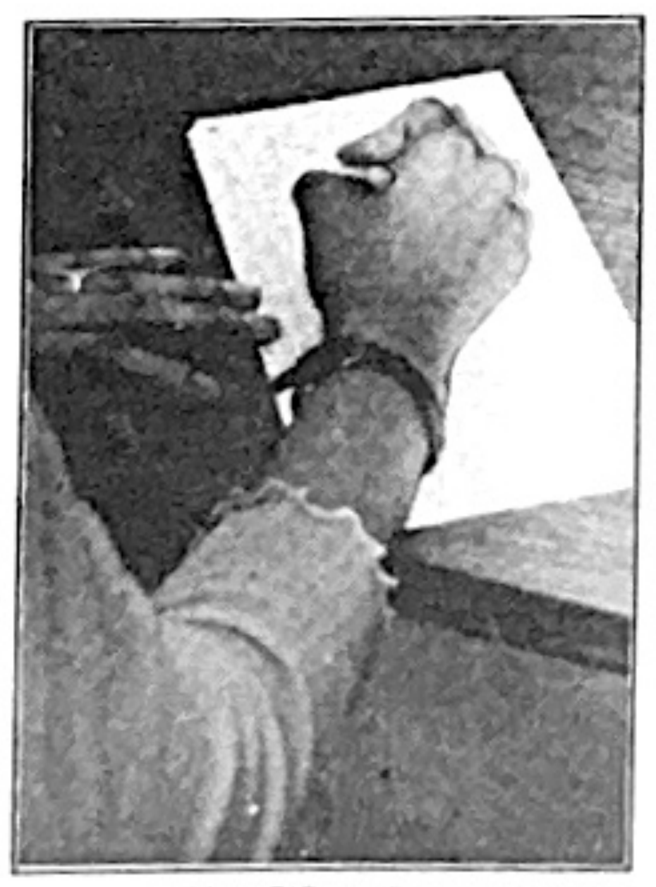
Feelings, relationships, family and love are priorities that Sanchez said outweigh politics.

He feels that the issue should be handled with more care.

Sanchez also feels that if he had never come to America, he would still believe that "Family comes first and then the material stuff."

Proficiency testing changes in '04

By Dan George
Staff reporter


Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

According to Shaker's new policy, eighth graders will no longer be taking the ninth grade proficiency test. Instead, ninth graders will take the test, as they had been before 1995. The change was made because the district was not happy with the scores they were receiving.

After receiving "so-so" marks on the recently released School District report card, Shaker has decided to rethink,it's proficiency testing policy.

According to Shaker Testing Director Dr. Reginald Blue, proficiency tests will be taken in ninth grade as opposed to the current practice of administering the test in eighth grade.

This new policy will be put into effect starting in 2004, meaning that the current fifth graders will be the first ninth graders to take the test as a group since 1995.

"We didn't score quite as well as we would have liked," said Blue, "and we want to make sure kids who graduate from Shaker are prepared and have the skill level that you need in the real world."

The new proficiencies will be administered in fall and spring of 2003 and 2004 and will cover writing, reading skills, science and math.

"Passing these test will be mandatory to graduate," said Blue, "but it won't change the curriculum."

Not all students agree with the proficiency testing changes.

"I think eighth graders should be able to take it. I felt fine taking it and think that we were well prepared for it," freshman Gretchen Fuller said.

News in the Nation

❶ Wichita, Kansas
Student artist expelled for artwork display

A high-school honors student was expelled for displaying artwork and poetry deemed "threatening" by her local school district near Wichita, Kansas.

17-year-old Sarah Boman displayed her poem on a classroom door. She is now receiving legal aid from the ACLU. Attorneys are arguing that Boman's expulsion was a result of a "zero tolerance" policy for any threatening material brought on by the Columbine tragedy.

Attorneys are arguing the zero-tolerance polices are not only dangerous, but violate freedom of expression.

❷ Cincinnati, Ohio
Drug violators free to walk the streets

On January 20, a federal judge outlawed a local ordinance in Cincinnati that forbade individuals arrested for drug offenses from walking down public streets.

The ACLU of Ohio said the regulation violated freedom of association and movement rights guaranteed by the US Constitution and subjected citizens to double jeopardy.

The regulation prohibited drug offenders from walking down public roads for 90 days following an arrest, or for a year if convicted.

❶
❷
❸
❹
The United States

❸ Seattle, Washington
Death threat posted on student website

A local school district has decided not to punish three Eastlake High School students after a death threat was posted on their website last fall, the ACLU said on Feb. 3.

The students created a website called "Eaztlake Phantom," with a chat room and bulletin board. After an Arizona college student posted the death threat, the students voluntarily closed the website. School officials initially suspended and fined three students, but have retracted the disciplinary action.

❹ San Francisco, California
Student website against teachers banned

The California ACLU has asked courts to dismiss a lawsuit filed by Professor Daniel Curzon Brown against a website that provides student reviews of teachers at San Francisco City College. Curzon Brown objects to the negative comments students post on the website, as he was rated on the website as one of the 10 worst teachers at City College. The case has severe implications for free speech on the Internet, which the ACLU says is protected by the First Amendment.

The Shakerite
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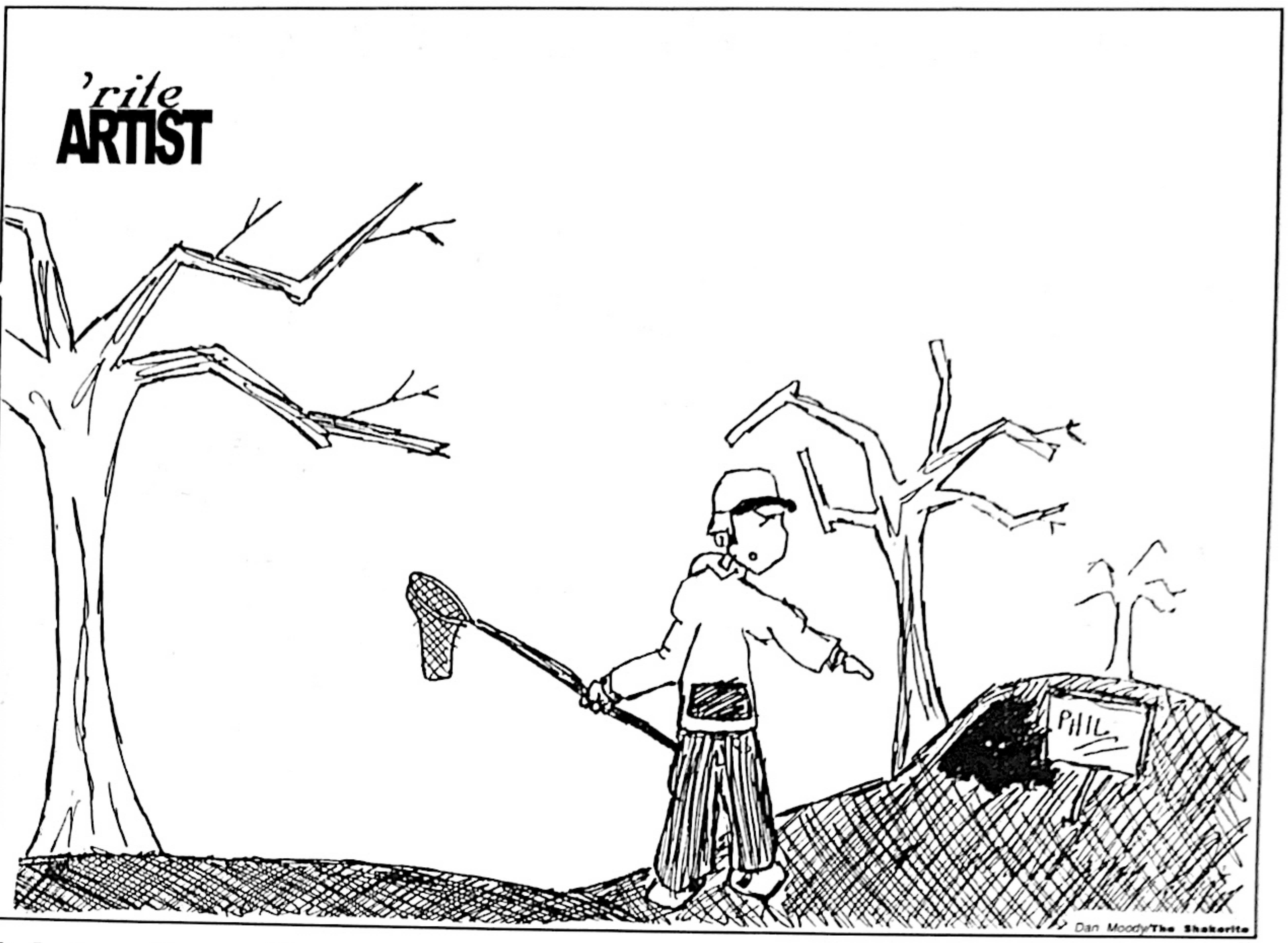


Dan Moody/The Shakerite

Vote "yes" to maintain Shaker's standards

'rite IDEA

Vote for the levy!

On March 7, Shaker voters will decide if they are willing to pay for a property tax hike to adequately fund the schools. After examining the school system's needs and the results of failed levies elsewhere, it's obvious that voting "yes for Shaker schools" is the only way to go.

Every two or three years, schools must ask for a levy, but this is the first time in five years for Shaker — the longest the district has gone without seeking additional funds. The levy is a request for an increase in property taxes. Those taxes cover the costs of current programs and contractual obligations as well as accommodating increased expenses. Updated textbooks and technology as well as additional activities, increased enrollment and rising inflation all account for growth in the school's expenditures and must be accounted for in order to sustain Shaker's quality system.

The schools receive 81 percent of their total revenue from property taxes. The levy would add about $24 a month in taxes per $100,000 of taxable value of a home, deductible from income taxes. Only 15 percent of the school's operating budget comes from the state, including lottery proceeds. Even less (3 percent) comes from federal grants. Schools in cities such as Beachwood obtain the majority of their income from taxes on corporate zones, like Beachwood Place and Science Park. Lacking such commercial development, Shaker must tax almost three times the amount of other cities in order to net the same revenue per student. We need this levy to pass.

If the issue fails, the impact will be significant. When a levy failed in 1994, art, music and physical education programs were downsized, the tutoring center suspended and the administrative staff narrowed to cut costs. The district was forced to reduce benefits such as health insurance and workers' compensation and had to jointly fund energy costs, bus purchases, insurance and telecommunications with other districts. If this levy fails, programs that are not mandated will disappear. The rich array of Shaker's educational programs – extracurriculars and unique electives — which are the hallmarks of our community, will diminish.

School officials emphasize that they do not want to scare people into voting for the levy, and they have not indicated what would be the first thing to go should it fail. However, for some indication we can look to a neighboring district where a failed levy has dramatically affected Cleveland Heights-University Heights schools. Continued levy defeats there have led to faculty cuts and limited busing. Athletic programs have been restricted to accommodate the narrowed budget, and aging school facilities await renovation. While Shaker is not at immediate risk for such radical cuts, residents would do well to note the potential for drastic damage to the schools and students.

The absence of noticeable benefits makes levies hard to sell. Even if residents can get past the tax increase, they cannot easily see the levy at work. Whereas a 1996 bond issue resulted in a renovated gymnasium, levy money is used exclusively for operating costs — electricity, water and transportation, to name a few.

The tax increase is small in light of the benefits the schools offer. Shaker students are among the best in America, and a Shaker diploma is a significant advantage when applying to college or entering the workforce. For residents without kids in the schools, the levy is an investment in the value of their homes. Strong schools fuel demand for homes, causing a rise in property values. Over the last decade, Shaker property values have risen on average 45.6 percent.

Major misconceptions arise whenever school levies hit the ballot. Opponents charge that money is wasted on needless programs, personnel and supplies. Let's clear things up: the levy is a necessity unless you don't like the tutoring center, AP classes, band uni- [illegible] Shaker schools would never have earned the reputation residents now enjoy and profit from.

If you have kids who graduated from Shaker, think about the people who voted for them to have a better education. If you don't have kids in the system yet, but plan to, how do you think they will get the best possible education? And if you know someone in the school now, it's obvious they need your help for this levy to pass. VOTE YES FOR SHAKER SCHOOLS!

letters to THE EDITOR

Bookshelf memorial at Mercer elementary

To the editor:

As many of you know, Bonnie McCants was the head custodian at Mercer School for over 10 years. Bonnie was unique in many ways to our school and most of all to our children.

Nearly every single child that walked through Mercer's doors was a friend to Bonnie, being drawn by her sweet smile and twinkling eyes. She made it her business to welcome new students, to comfort children in tears, to give out lessons in good manners, to promote patience and kindness in each of them, and most of all to teach them to be fair and respectful to each other.

Mrs. McCants passed away on December 1, 1999, after a quiet fight with cancer (which she concealed from every one of us for many years). To honor her memory and pass along her legacy, we are establishing the Bonnie L. McCants Memorial Bookshelf in our library.

Her close friend and W.E.B. Room Chair, Mimi Testen will be collecting books from donations to fill this shelf. She asked that the books (in mint condition) deal only with the topics of race relations, art and photography, good manners and behavior, teaching respect, kindness, patience, or tolerance, African American nonfiction or biography, and any books celebrating life and friendship.

Your donation (money or book) will be tax deductible. Checks should be made out to Mercer School PTO and designated for the Bonnie L. McCants Memorial Bookshelf.

We at Mercer School would be very grateful for any assistance that you can offer.

Mercer Elementary Staff

FORUM

U.S. History teacher Andrew Glasier's class recently studied muckraking, the journalistic movement devoted to raising the consciousness of the public. To further their understanding of muckraking, students in Glasier's class wrote stories expressing their views on pressing issues of social conflict in present day America.

Immoral behavior will reap consequences

• Parents challenge punishments, undermine right and wrong

Andre Morrison
Guest 'riter

According to a news article in the Dec. 31, 1999 *Plain Dealer*, three students were suspended in the wake of the plot to shoot up South High School. The students have since returned to school.

Amanda Hatley, 15, was among the students suspended when their names surfaced early in the investigation of the plan for a Columbine-style massacre on homecoming day. Her family sued school officials in U.S. District Court in an effort to prevent her from being transferred to another school. None of the suspended students was charged with criminal wrongdoing, but all were transferred to other schools for their own safety.

Four other students pleaded guilty to criminal charges in the case and will serve time in juvenile detention. Mayoral spokeswoman Nancy Lesic said that Mayor Michael White and the school district acted responsibly.

"No children were hurt," Lesic said. "There were accusations of overreaction, but last week we had kids pleading to conspiracy to commit murder. I suppose many parents appreciate that serious measures were taken in the interest of safety."

School spokesman William Wendling ended the article by saying, "the most important thing is to get these kids back in class."

Teachers, parents, fellow classmates and friends: is getting these children back in school the *most* important thing? In lieu of the Columbine massacre, such actions should not be taken lightly.

In a prior incident, several students were suspended from school due to a brawl at a football game. Many adults, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, strongly defended them. They went as far as to march and picket around the school to get their children back in. Oddly enough, I didn't hear of any of the children involved in the brawl marching for their own defense. I began to ask myself, what is happening to our society? More importantly, what is happening in our homes? It seems we have no morals. What I do doesn't affect me only; it has impact on others, too. Take a good look at the Columbine massacre. Sadly, it was a catastrophe that has affected the lives of many, including the families of the criminals. We seem to think that we know more than our parents, and parents are letting children dictate right and wrong. It is not an injustice to be disciplined because of some unruly behavior.

Recently a promiscuous Euclid High school student was caught performing oral sex on several of her classmates in the school hallway. Again, parents of the students involved reacted by protesting the punishment handed out to their children. It appears that we have lost our senses. Are we to accept or tolerate such shameful misconduct? Is this the fate of our future generation?

From an early age I was taught to honor my father and mother. Most of the time, they only have my best interest in mind. Similarly, we may not agree with those in a higher position, such as teachers or law enforcement officials, but their position or office is to be respected.

"Many children have not been properly taught and lack a healthy fear of God."

I feel that many children have not been properly taught and lack a healthy fear of God, which has led them to fool themselves into thinking there are no consequences for their risky behavior. Eventually, they have to face one unchanging fact : "Whatever a man is sowing, this he will also reap."

Advanced courses, or a walk on easy street?

• African Americans occupy too few seats in higher level classes

Starlyn Priest
Guest 'riter

For many years, the high school has maintained a highly respected reputation throughout the greater suburban area. The quality of education offered in this school is widely known throughout neighboring and distant school systems. Shaker Heights, one of the wealthiest suburbs in Ohio, has also been portrayed as a culturally diverse school district.

At the high school, each student, no matter what his or her ethnicity, has a chance to acquire the credible education needed in our democratic society.

The problem is, not everyone embraces the chance to challenge themselves. Particularly, many African-American students who are given this opportunity tend to back away from something that might appear difficult. As an African-American student, I feel that fear holds these students back.

This fear, one that has been drilled into the minds of many African-American students, prevents them from taking advantage of opportunities to reach their full potential. This obstacle is spreading to younger generations as well. The chain reaction prompts kids to run from difficulty and builds a fear of challenge.

Advanced placement and honors level courses are pursued by very few African-American students. Often at the start of a school year, a handful of black students feel they are up to the challenge. However, by the middle of the quarter, not many of those students are still there.

Why is it that Caucasian and Asian students strive to excel, and African-American students merely strive for another way to easy street? The sad thing is that African-American students seem to believe they are not smart enough to occupy a seat in a classroom with an advanced curriculum.

When asked why she wasn't enrolled in AP courses, one African-American student said, "Because I don't want to be in a class with all of those smart white kids and not have any clue as to what is going on."

As appalling as it may sound, this is an attitude that a lot of young African Americans have. They actually feel as though they are not as smart as the next Caucasian student. Another African-American student admitted that the she felt advanced courses were "fit for those white people because they study and take the time to understand the material being presented." This frame of mind is a mental block that continues to keep a lot of intelligent African Americans settling for just average or passing (60 percent).

Can one assume that black students feel they are not pushed toward higher levels of learning? How could they be inspired if they are allowed to treat their education so nonchalantly? Is it safe to say that some black students set their goals too low? I often observe in my AP and honors courses that white students do in fact take up and practice more effective study habits.

"The problem is, not everyone embraces the chance to challenge themselves."

Most of the African-American students that I have observed do not aim for high standards. African-American students realize that in higher level courses, you have to study a lot harder than in regular classes. In turn, they steer toward classes that are going to be easy and avoid harder classes, which universities and colleges look for on transcripts. "I think that the goals and educational performance of a student depend on the frame of mind parents set them in," said a parent of a child attending the high school.

This parent explained that she made an effort to push her children into those advanced courses. "These children nowadays just don't understand that it is a good thing to be challenged. I believe that it only makes one's mind stronger."

There have been efforts made to encourage young black students to sign up for more difficult classes. Certain African-American groups have been formed to build academic confidence and self-assurance. Some groups such as MAC Scholars and MAC Sisters are examples of positive influences on African-American students. These groups attempt to recognize outstanding achievers in the high school. In a way, they help motivate African-American students, increase their confidence and help others grasp the idea that they too have the smarts to achieve as successfully as the next person.

Indeed the struggle for success does not come easily. However, in the long run, it is worth the hard work and dedication.

10 second TICK-OFF

Leave me alone, please!

There is nothing I hate more than idle chitchat when I'm trying to study for a big test. There I am, diligently reading away in my less than intriguing government book in my favorite diner when what seems like 10 people walk in, sit down next to me and gab, gab, gab - about NOTHING!

They see the panic on my face, they see the books on the table in front of me, but still, "giggle, giggle, yak yak."

People, please. The next time one of your friends is quite obviously studying, let her study. Save the meaningless gossip for another time!

Jesse Griffiths

FUBU sends wrong message

I like FUBU! The only problem with this is that "For Us By Us" doesn't really refer to white people. The problem with me wearing "05" on my chest is that I'm not black.

I understand wearing certain clothes to make political or religious statements. I also understand wearing garments that reflect your heritage. However, I don't understand what good can come from creating a clothing line specifically for a certain race. Doesn't that go against the ideals of Martin Luther King Jr. and racial integration?

I wore a FUBU jersey to a Dave Matthews Band concert once, and everybody was like, "Why is he trying to be ghetto?" What a horrible message.

Justin Gurney

Rob Rains
Staff reporter

U.S. policy on Cuba misguided

His face has been like a rash all over CNN and other news stations. With his unmistakable puppy dog brown eyes and the Tommy Hilfiger soccer uniform with the "U.S.A" logo proudly stitched on the front, perhaps Elian Gonzalez is unaware of the national controversy he caused ever since he was discovered clinging to a raft the shore of Florida. His mother and stepfather were killed making the journey from Cuba to the United States, but Elian survived. He now lives with various relatives, and his every move has been documented extensively. Elian's first day at school. Elian's walk to the courthouse. Who hasn't seen Elian playing with a dog in the front yard of his uncle's home?

Elian, though adorable and cute, doesn't belong in the United States. There, I said it. Now before the public lynching takes place, let me explain. The United States is a proud and elite country. We are the luckiest people in the world and wear our citizenship like a badge of honor on our breast. People who study and toil to become American citizens will agree with me. Talk of Elian receiving American citizenship is a slap in the face to any immigrant who passed the citizenship test [illegible] glance at the naturalization ceremony.

I understand that Cuba is a communist country, but it is about time we Americans realize that we are a little too friendly to our island neighbors. The Cuban Refugee Act enables Cubans who merely reach the United States to qualify to become American citizens. We are not even this lenient with our neighbor to the north, Canada. Most other immigrants must have relatives in the country, a stable residence and income before applying for citizenship.

In addition, presidential hopefuls George W. Bush and Pat Buchanan have scrambled to use the situation as a way to sway some votes. "I think his mother died trying to escape from a communist country, and we should honor her wish," Buchanan stated recently on TV. Elian's father and grandmothers have been the most vocal about bringing Elian back to Cuba, but they seem to be losing the fight. While riding home from meetings with senators, a Cuban radio host asked Elian what he planned to do the next day. He responded, "Tomorrow they will make me an American citizen." Someone else must see what is going on here.

Before Cuba became a communist country, Americans flocked to the island for cigars and all-night gambling. Various athletes and entertainers such as Babe Ruth and Frank Sinatra were seen in Havana from time to time. Now, almost 50 years later, the U.S. is determined to keep a 6-year-old from returning to his native land despite his father's request. Anyone who lives in a communist country can't possibly be happy, can they? The United States needs to reassess the situation and realize that government interests should not decide the fate of a little boy.

How to achieve success in the game of life

• A guide, from birth and beyond, of advancement via corruption

By Allison Pollock
Co-editor in chief

In this day and age, it is necessary to thoroughly prepare for your life, and this means starting at a very early age. Parents play a big part in this planning stage. Optimally, parents should be from two different ethnic minority groups. However, if this is not possible, upper-class white parents will never have a negative effect.

Before you are even an idea in their heads, parents must set aside all of their earnings for you, so that your life will be successful. College is expensive these days, so they can never put aside too much, even if that means your parents must starve for a few years.

Birth to pre-primary school

At birth, parents should send a birth announcement to all seven colleges in the Ivy League and any college that costs more than $30,000 a year. This kind gesture should be accompanied by a brief description of you so the university will begin to know you on a personal level. If possible, enclose a snipping from your first haircut, and definitely include photos. The more mail universities receive from you, the better off you will be in life.

Now each university has a file set up just for you! Send them any and all awards, accomplishments and changes in your life that ever occur.

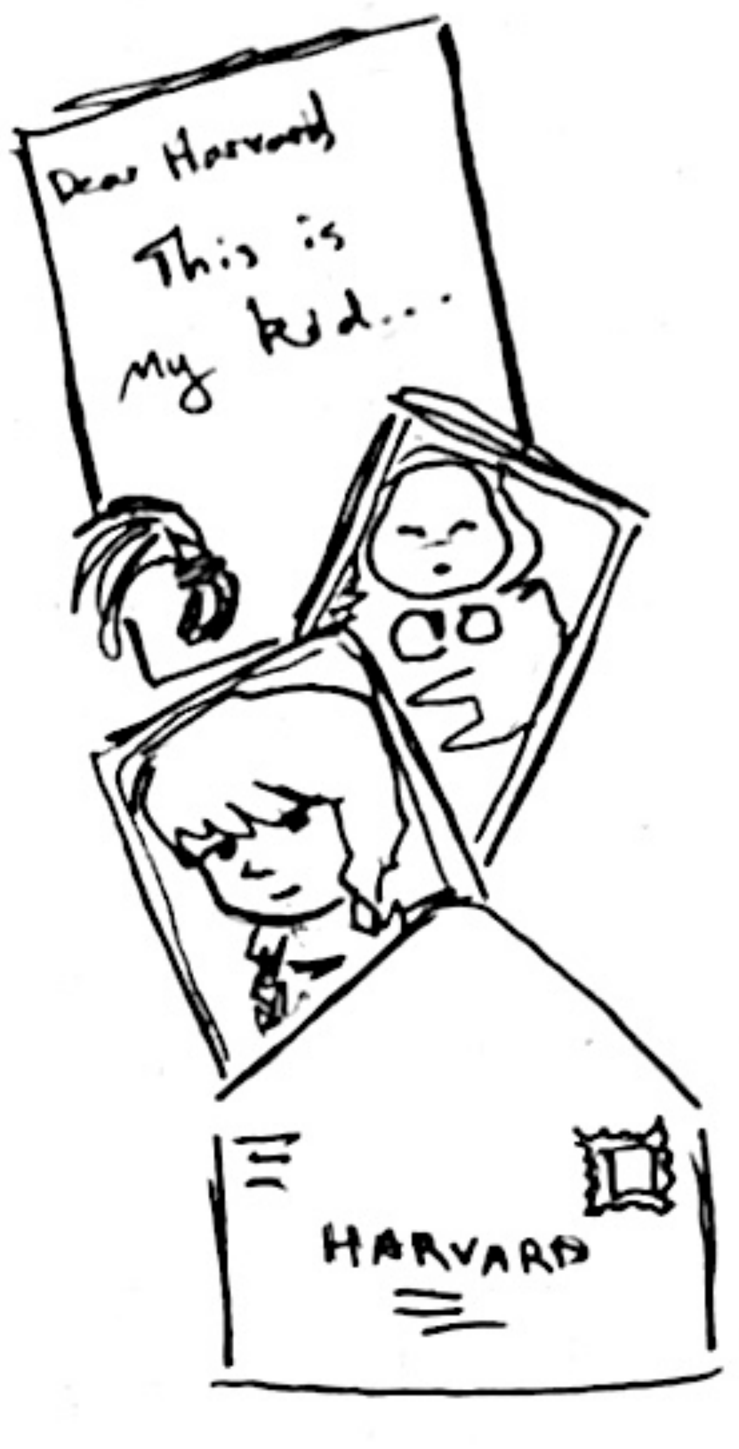
Major changes such as divorce and death in the family give you a cutting-edge advan- [illegible] suggest these options to your parents as soon as you can speak.

Your parents' next responsibility is to choose a preschool for you. Experience in this first classroom environment prepares you for the real world, where money measures a person's success.

In order to get into the most prestigious preschool, however, you must be trained to act like an excitingly dull adult at the ripe young age of three. Only fully potty-trained (no accidents whatsoever), fully literate, well-read, bi- or trilingual children will be accepted. Remember, preschool admission is just a small-scale version of the most important admissions process of all: admission into college. Keep this in mind if you grow discouraged.

Once enrolled in that well-known preschool (which costs more than flying a private jet to the Mediterranean every week), you should take in all that you can and more. Win first prize in all contests. Make sure you are always the teacher's pet. Brown-nosing is a skill that will help you throughout life.

After success in preschool, schools will come naturally, but make sure that you don't let your parents go astray and send you to public school. Private is always the way to go, proven by the fact that private schools cost more money.



Emily Phillips/**The Shakerite**

Primary to secondary school

During primary school and secondary school, you must take advantage of any and all enrichment programs available. This refers to academic programs that introduce difficult concepts to gifted children like yourself and destroy the self-esteem of all those who are not chosen to participate. If, for some unheard of reason, you are not chosen, make sure you have your parents call the school and arrange for you to be placed in these programs (via paying off the school).

Along with academics, a successful person's pre-adulthood life must comprise extracurricular activities, including at least two specific activities in all the following areas: music, sports, art, dance, world travel, politics, volunteer work and social life. Great emphasis should be placed on tackling all these activities and then masking the busy atmosphere in order to appear calm. Do not let peers know you try to do anything; make them believe that everything is a breeze for you and that you have never and will never struggle in life. In every activity you participate in, you should excel far beyond your peers. Showing off will always get you noticed, and getting noticed can be half the battle to finding success.

College admissions and beyond

The college admissions process is very similar to the preschool, primary and secondary school process. People with more money and unique or superhuman abilities will get in to the schools you will be looking at.

To assure yourself a spot in the seven Ivy League schools and any others that you have developed a close relationship with since birth, you must grow even closer. At this point, you should be calling these schools daily to become well-acquainted with the head admissions officer. Here is where the brown-nosing we've told you to practice all your life will pay off in immense proportions.

So keep your nose brown, your grades high (straight As), and your activities plenty, and you will be on your way to the college of your choice (which of course will be the most expensive private university in the Ivy League).

Once admitted into college and until life terminates, simply follow the same routine suggested for your early life and always keep busy with the brown-nosing. Connections are your ticket to high places, so use these connections in any and every way you can. Accept help from others in the form of finances, and always keep your [illegible]*ings of guilt you have for others who suffer more than you; they are simply ignorant about what it takes to succeed. It is their own fault they failed, not yours. Good luck!*

Politicians distort abortion issue for gain

• Right-to-life and pro-choice advocates provoke insincere positions

By Anahid Thompson
Opinion co-editor

As the war on abortion rages, politicians have both factions eating out of their hands as they cater to the politics of whatever audience they are addressing at the moment.

This 2000 presidential year coincides with the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion and has since fueled the fire of protest for pro-life activists. While presidential candidates change their stances to suit every audience, both sides fail to see that the abortion debate isn't really about the right to choose: it hinges instead on limiting the rights of women in general, and it is women who suffer when condescending politicians use them to sway narrow-minded voters.

Politicians portray themselves as sympathetic to both sides of the abortion question. One day, John McCain may speak out against abortion. The next day, he says if his daughter faced the infamous choice, it would be a family decision. Politicians cannot justify their views on abortion according to morals or ethics – they are morally and ethically bankrupt.

Newspaper stories routinely show that they are inconstant in their positions. When will America come to terms with the corruption inherent in politics and political figures?

Furthermore, Republican candidates' arguments about abortion are perverted and entirely false. Pro-choice activists are not theoretically in favor of killing babies or using abortion as a method of birth control, as they choose not to view the embryo as a life form. Religious convictions are used as propaganda by pro-life rabble-rousers and the Republican candidates who kiss their asses to incorporate guilt into the debate.

If the right to abort violates your beliefs, then do not opt to have an abortion. However, in maintaining your status as a law abiding and fair-minded citizen of the United States, ensure this as an option for others whose views differ from yours

The pro-choice stance only reflects the foundations our country was built upon: liberty and freedom for all, including women. Politics and political figures have no correlation to preserving the woman's right to choice, and it is time that idealism and naivete rule fewer minds in the home of the brave and the land of the free.

Bring back Slawdog's bagels

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. This year, thanks to a new snack bar in the cafeteria and an increased food selection, students and faculty can buy breakfast items every morning and get this necessary energy boost.

There is one downside to this updated setup. We no longer have bagels for 50 cents as you walk into the auditorium. Now the bagels cost 65 cents and are not sold conveniently 20 feet from the auditorium entrance.

The snack bar is a wonderful improvement with only one small fault, the location of the bagels.

Allison Pollock

Valentine's bring smiles, not tears

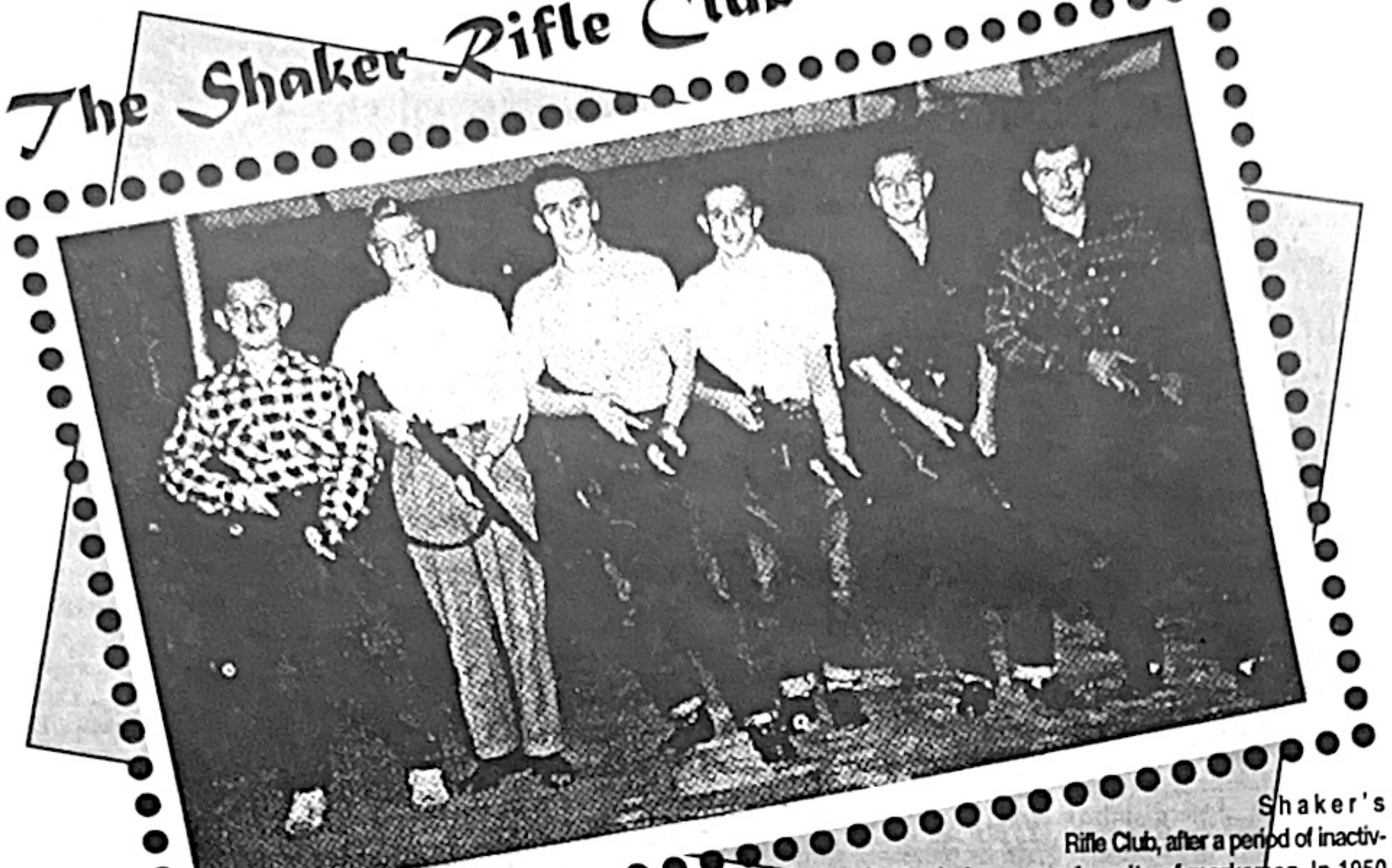
What bothers me most about Valentine's Day is that it bothers everyone else so much. I can remember a time when we all looked forward to the annual exchange of heart-shaped doilies and hours of feasting on pink cupcakes and frosted red cookies with our peers. Now all I hear from my classmates are complaints about feeling like life has run them over with a Mack truck every time Valentine's Day comes around and they are once again dateless.

The holiday was invented to celebrate love, not punish those who aren't sharing their time with a significant other at the moment.

Lisa Samols

1950

The Shaker Rifle Club



Shaker's Rifle Club, after a period of inactivity, again became a favorite of marksmen. In 1950 the club boasted a total regular membership of 20. The members were students interested in improving their knowledge and skill in matters relating to the handling and proper care of firearms and target ranges. They entered the club in the National Rifle Association. The NRA awarded merit badges to the members on a scaled-score basis. So that more qualified students might have had an opportunity to win these awards, the Director of Civilian Marksmanship sent the club 10,000 rounds of free ammunition and loaned them four United States Army rifles. Consideration was given to the formation of a Shaker Rifle Team, which would have fire matches with other schools.

That was then, this is now

Life was different in **1950**. Here are a few tidbits of what it was like back then.

- Many parents commented unfavorably about an "inappropriate" Shaker cheer. The cheer, '**Shaker's red hot, (insert opponent's name) is all shot!**' was considered disrespectful to the other team.

- *In* December, the Girls' Glee Club and the a cappella choir presented a traditional Christmas assembly, complete with '**While the Sheperds Watched**' and '**Ave Maria**,' both Christian songs.

- Also in December, an editorial was published in the Shakerite about the '**Meaning of Christmas.**' While no religious terminology was used, no other December holidays were mentioned.

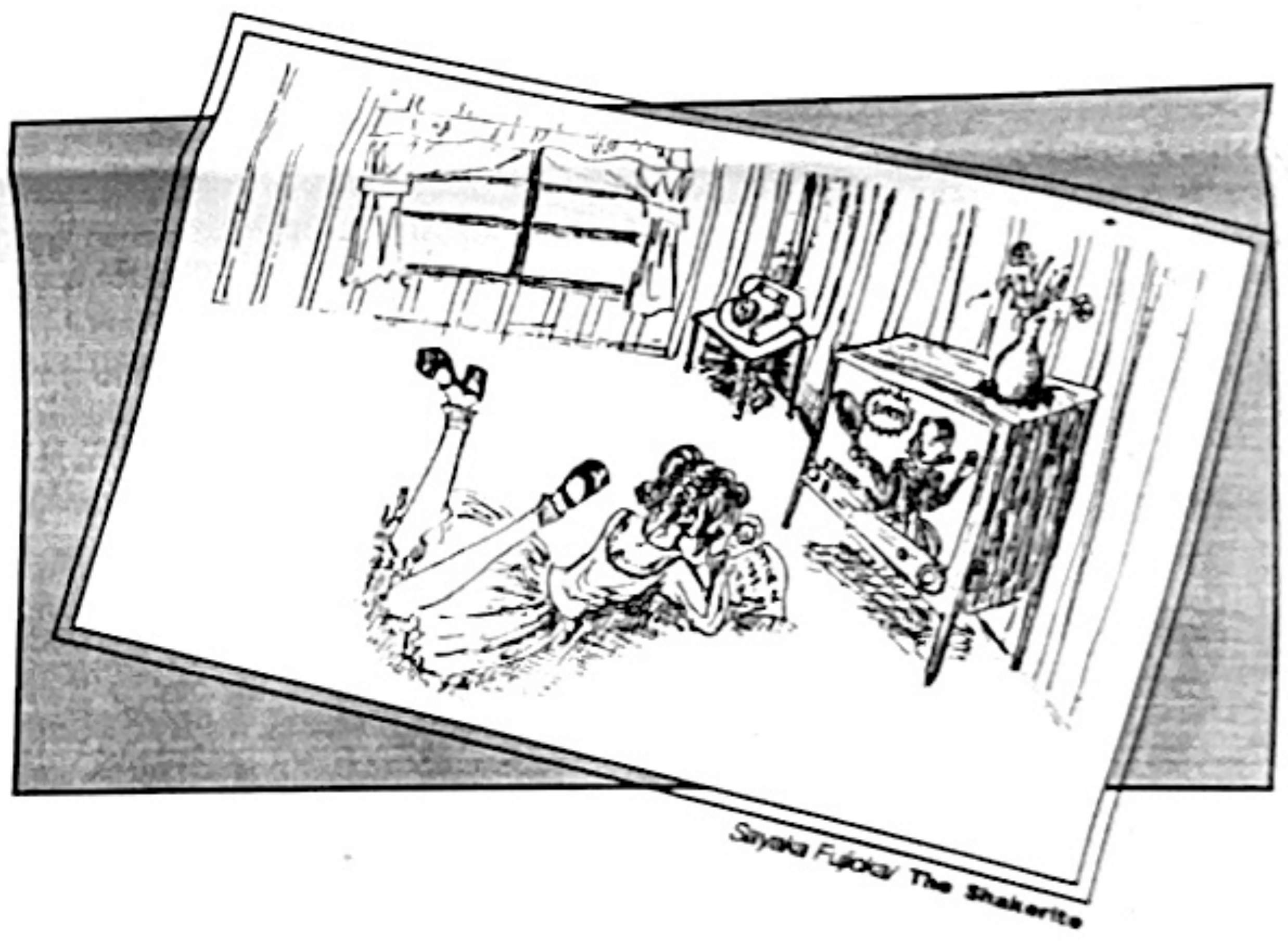
- According to the *Shakerite*, "A sensation caused by the visit of the Miami University Glee Club a few weeks ago was real, though varied. There was no denying that the singing was good, but that was secondary to **the main interest of the day** : the MEN !"

- The enrollment of Shaker Heights High School was **830** students in three grades (ninth graders attended the middle school).

Shaker Heights impressed by new invention

• Students raised on radio and books open their arms to black and white television

The differences between 1950 and 2000 are especially apparent when discussed in terms of entertainment. As illustrated in the following article,written in 1950 by Julia Doyle, television was a novelty that almost half of Shaker students owned.



Siyaka Fujioka/ The Shakerite

According to a cross section of Shaker students, you are in the minority if there is no television set in your home. Over half of the student body was polled, and the results showed that 279 students have TV, while **212 are without it.** Opinions differed as to whether or not TV interferes with homework. One girl, who very wisely wishes to remain anonymous said. **"Oh, no, TV doesn't interfere with homework** in my case. I do all my geometry while watching it!" Her grades? We won't go into that!

Many Shakerites consider TV a great promoter of social activities. As Nancy Fullerton put it, **"the dark rooms have their possibilities. . ."** However, Lois Early does not seem to agree. With a dark frown on her brow she growled, "The boys come over to my house, whip right past me, and glue themselves to our TV set. I might as well not be there."

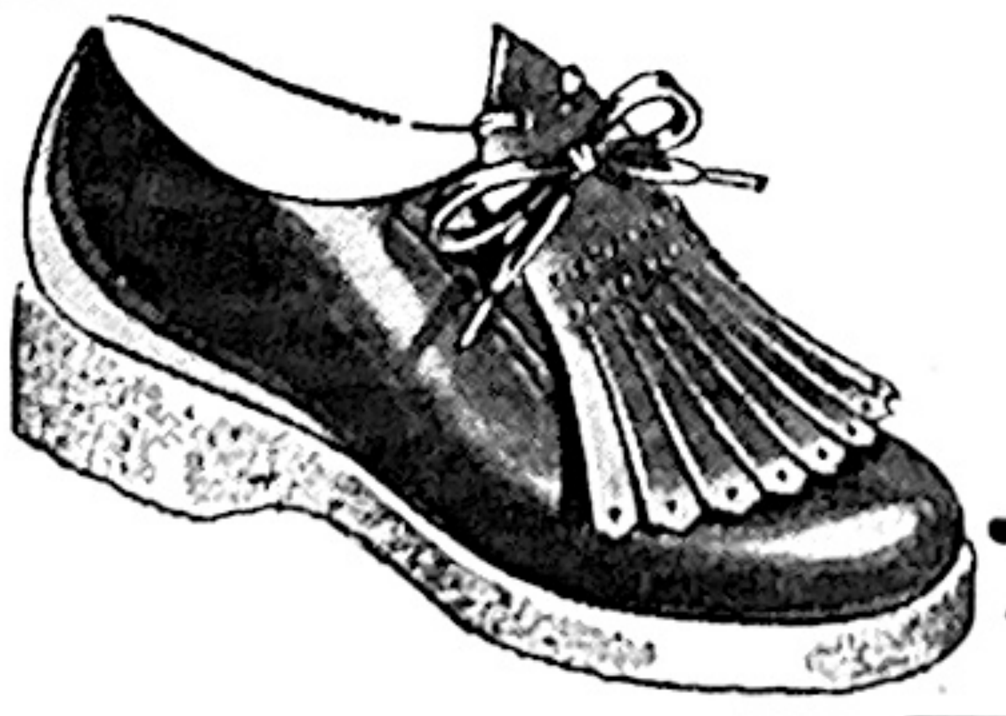
Some of the most popular programs are *Hit Parade, Milton Berle, Lux Video Theater, Broadway Open House,* and *Suspense*.

Time spent watching TV ranges from never to eight hours a night; however the average is one and a half hours. In regard to the educational value of television the first comment received was **"Ha."** Others think that all programs are educational in some way.

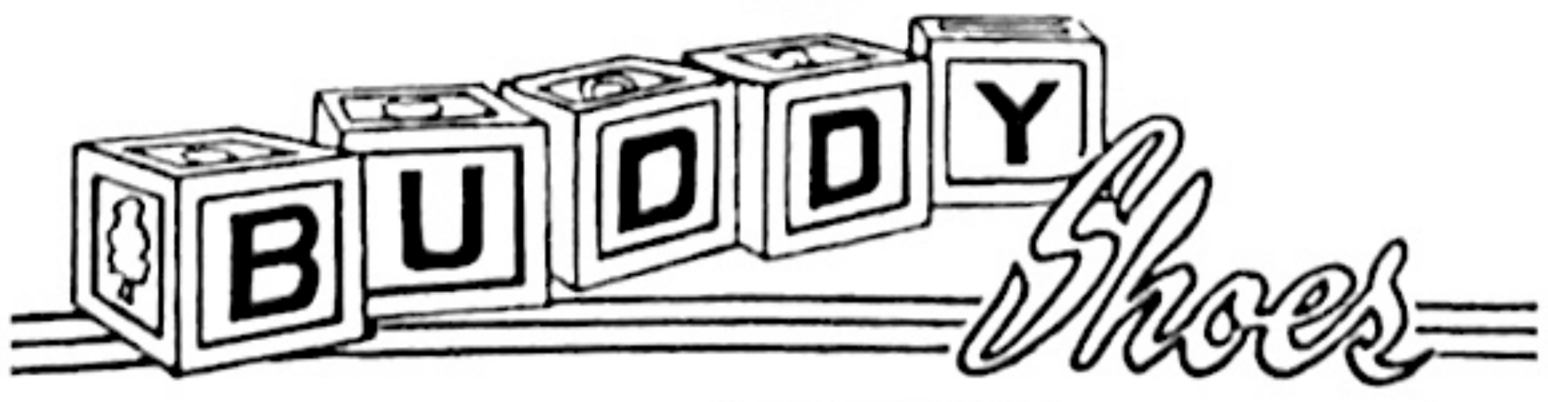
Everyone seems to like TV and wish they could spare more time watching it. They agreed that they could live without it -- but they'd rather not. Gractia Parsons says, "First you could hear radio, now you can see television, but when it comes to the point where **you can smell your entertainment**, that's when I quit!"

written by Julia Doyle in 1950

Advertisements from the 1950s, like almost everything else, were much different from today's. Here are a few samples of paid ads pulled from archived Shakerites.



Our
Pretty Casuals
have a fashion pedigree!
teen-age
REGISTERED TRADE MARK



Miss Shaker Shop
16717 Kinsman Rd.
Kinsman-Lee Area
THE TEEN-AGE CENTER
Only One of Its Kind in the City
Have you met your friends at our COKE BAR yet?

SANKOFA RETURNS

Justin Gurney
Managing editor

Shaker students always brag about being diverse. But do we know what that means?

"A true understanding of diversity is acknowledging that we are a global community. It is the responsibility of each of us to seek out and learn what has been, and is happening in other parts of our community," said Xavier Allen, creator of the first Sankofa performance at Shaker.

To achieve this goal three years ago, Allen, math teacher, brought Dr. Lee Jones, Associate Professor in Educational Leadership at Florida State University, to speak about energy givers and energy stealers, inspiring the school with a personal success story and singing. This assembly was a prelude to the first Sankofa performance. Allen's creation has become a Shaker tradition.

"Those celebrations arose from some turbulent times and we were able to form a cohesive unit and produce something positive," Allen said of Sankofa. "Their continuation sends a message to everyone outside that Shaker is maintaining a commitment to social education and equity."

Mary O'Connell/ The Shakerite

Junior Spencer Williams rapping during the Valentine's Day performance of Sankofa.

Although Allen left Shaker to return to graduate school two years ago, he left a strong foundation on which to build greater African-American History knowledge. A committee of Shaker residents and faculty dedicated to continuing African-American History Month presentations now exists.

"Each year we develop a new theme," said Charlie Morgan, science teacher and co-faculty leader of Sankofa.

The Harlem Renaissance was this year's theme, and the celebration kicked off with speaker William Lewis III, director of The Pan-African Culture Center at Akron University. A rendition of the Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and also included poetry performances by sophomore David Thomas, junior Spencer Williams and sophomore Ashley Manly.

However, the festivities did not end there. For the third consecutive year, the Sankofa performers gave us something to think about. Spanish teacher Loraine Freeman and Morgan headed the crew along with student leaders Meghan Crosby, Samar Oden, Kim Harris, Max Roberts and Rheannon Baker.

This year's performance included more oratory and singing than past years', including a gospel rendition of "Amazing Grace" and swing dancing, taking the audience back to the days of cotton clubs during the Harlem Renaissance. Despite the success of this year's Sankofa performance, Freeman is sure it can improve.

"This was my first year, but not my last," Freeman said. "We've got a lot of stuff to work on and I would like to begin at the end of this year."

African American History month events are made to do more than entertain; they aim to educate the students and community.

"Kids actually get something out of the speakers," senior Monteia Goodwin said. "It's important to have these events going on."

"I really had no idea what African-American History Month was all about before this," said Maggie Morris, a junior who recently moved to Shaker.

"I've never seen anything like that before," said freshman Jennifer Beard, a recent transfer from South High School. "February was just another month at South."

Although some students believe February's events are directed towards only the African-Americans in school, Allen disagrees and feels that idea must be changed.

"Sankofa is directed to humanity," Allen said. "African history belongs to everyone, people of African descent cannot horde it to themselves for their own enrichment and joy. Those who make that criticism fail to recognize that contributions to humanity from people with different backgrounds than theirs have enriched all human lives, including their own."

Concluding the month's celebrations is a book fair held in the high school library which entails speakers, music and more.

This is only the beginning. Morgan said he wants to continue these events year in and year out with a new theme each February. He is already at work for next year.

"Next year I hope to do something about the African Diaspora, which were all the areas affected by the transatlantic slave trade," Morgan said.

Mary O'Connell/ The Shakerite

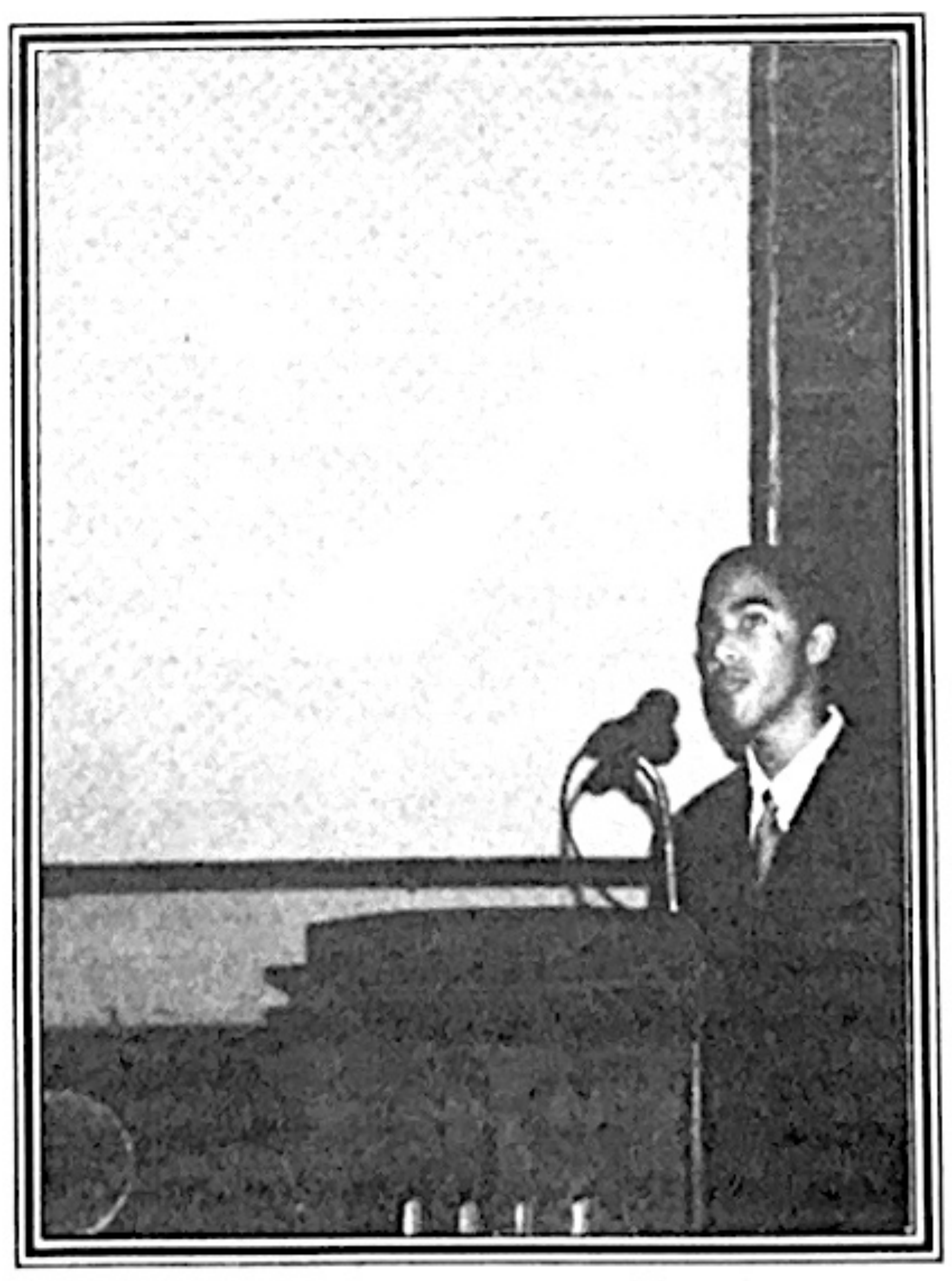
Seniors Lee Ajayi and Meryl Scher danced the night away at an imaginary swing club during the Harlem Renaissance. Many African-American jazz musicians played swing and big band music in clubs, bars and restaurants.

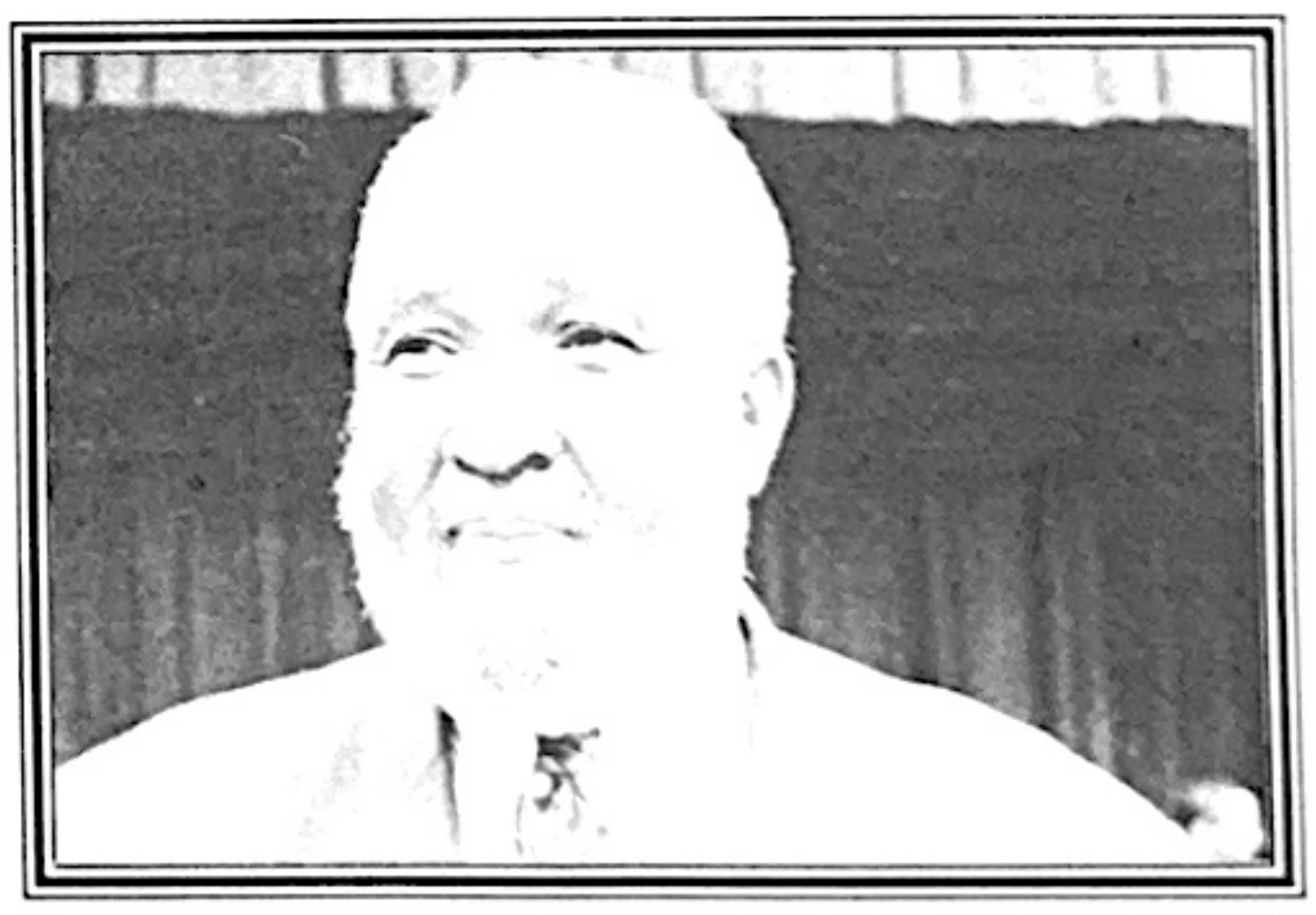
David Margolius/ The Shakerite

The cast of this year's Sankofa performances closes out the assembly with a song.

Mary O'Connell/ The Shakerite

Fallyne Johnson (left) and Chanel Thorpe acted at hosts of an imaginary jazz club, at which students portraying singers Dorothy Dandridge, Billie Holliday and Lena Horne





Mary O'Connell/ The Shakerite

Above: On Feb. 3, the high school and Sankofa hosted speaker William Lewis III, director of The Pan-African Culture Center at Akron University.

Left: Jamiyl Motaabbed acted as W.E.B DuBois, who spoke of his views on civil rights and the fight for justice.

Mary O'Connell/ The Shakerite

Pages 8 and 9 designed by Layout editor Stephanie Gabank

Knowing the Unknown: The World of Psychics

Is the truth really out there?

At some point, everyone has pondered the big questions. What happens after death? What does my future hold? Some people claim to have the answers, which leads to the next biggest question: are they accurate?

By Lia Silver
Centerpiece co-editor

In the hit movie *The Sixth Sense*, a young boy is able to see and speak to the dead. The television show *Profiler* features a woman who helps solve crimes with her psychic abilities. Plus, the brand new series *The Others* is about a variety of people who have talents ranging from seeing ghosts to predicting the future. These popular movies and shows have intrigued the nation—but what most people don't consider is how far the world of psychics stretches beyond the television screen.

Parapsychologists point to two different human abilities in explaining psychic phenomena. The first is extrasensory perception, also known as ESP. ESP is the ability to obtain information without using the five basic senses—in other words, having a 'sixth sense.' Other abilities related to ESP are telepathy (the transfer of information from one mind to another) and clairvoyance (the transfer of information from an object to the mind of the receiver).

Mary O'Connor **The Shakerite**

It is commonly thought that psychics and fortune tellers are able to see the future by looking into crystal balls. Most psychics, however, would argue that this is nothing more than a simple legend.

The second ability is called psychokinesis, known as PK. PK is the ability to use the energy of the mind to move or affect matter without physical contact.

The majority of PK incidents involve death. For example, many cases have been reported in which upon the death of a loved one, the family phone gives off an eerie ring. For years after, the phone continue to ring in that manner, but no one is there. The phenomenon most likely has to do with the mourning person's desire to communicate with the deceased.

Astral projection is the idea that the soul can detach itself from the physical body. Out of body experiences (OBEs) are most likely triggered by emotional trauma, and studies have shown that 25 percent of people surveyed claim to have experienced one at some point in their lives.

According tothe book *Psychic Connections: A Journey into the world of PSI* by Lois Duncan and William Roll, Ph.D., some of the most extraordinary OBEs were experienced by Ingo Swann, a New York psychic and artist. Swann reportedly sent himself flying to Mercury and Jupiter in about eight minutes. He wrote down the descriptions of the two planets, and when data was later sent back by the *Mariner 10*, what Swann had reported seeing was uncannily similar to the electronic data that the space craft recorded.

While people like Swann claim to be sending off their soul on a quest to explore the galaxy, other people apparently have the gift of talking with the dead.

Mary Ann, who does not use a surname, is a paranormal investigator from Northeast Ohio. She says she was born with the ability to see, hear and speak with earthbound spirits.

When a spirit refuses to leave Earth, Mary Ann uses humor and knowledge to coax them into the next world. She also has helped local police solve dozens of murder cases.

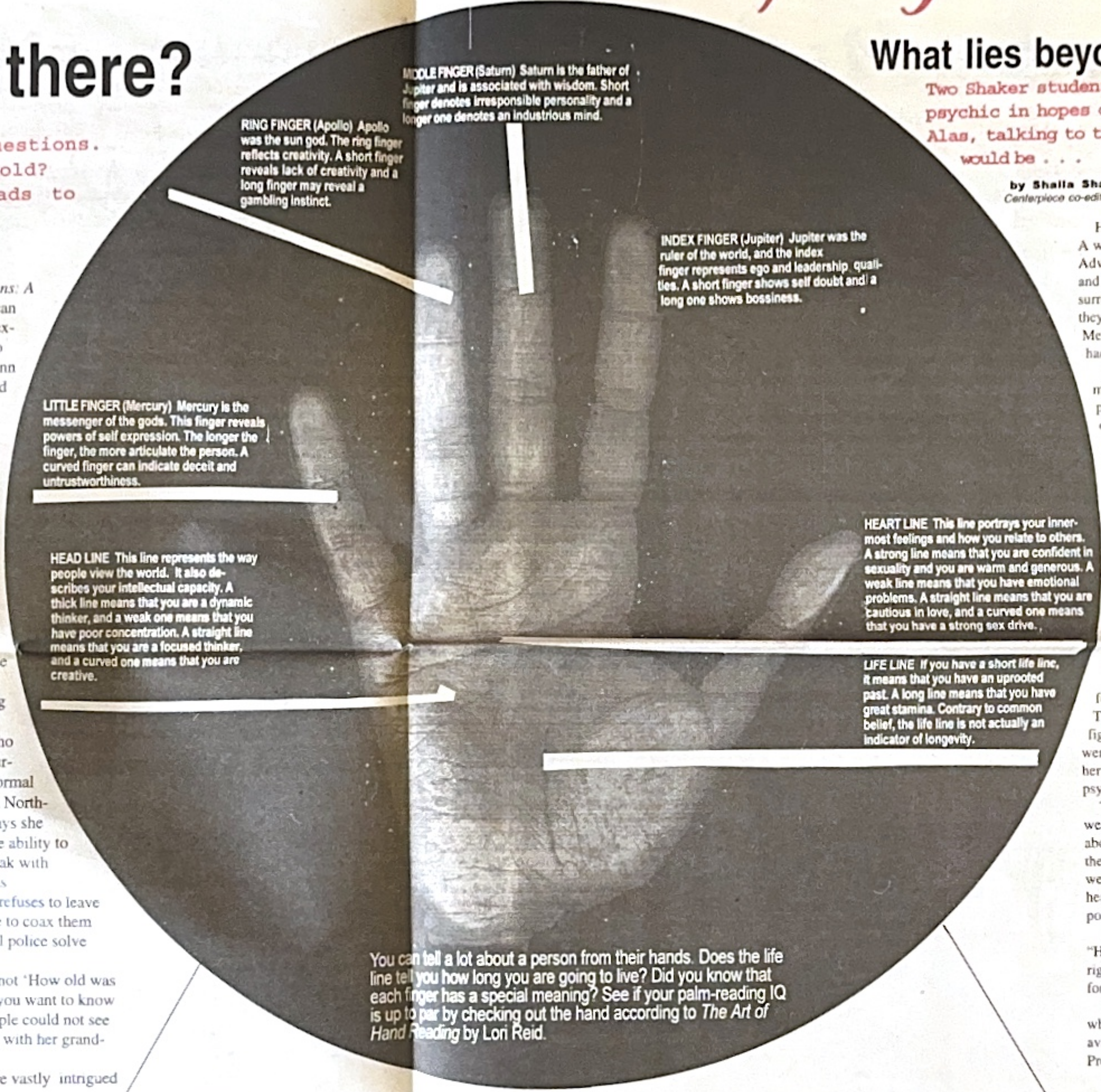
"The question that you want to ask me is not 'How old was I when I realized I could see ghosts?' What you want to know is that I was seven when I realized other people could not see them," said Mary Ann, who shares the talent with her grandmother and daughter.

Sound pretty neat? Well, tons of people are vastly intrigued by the psychic world.

"Psychics are entertainment, and they also help you see what your future holds. It's astrological, but I can't really explain how they do it. It's just something they can do," freshman Courtney Boyd said.

However, not everyone is quite so willing to accept that people can talk to their dead uncles and make paintings fall to the ground by concentrating.

"No, I don't think that there is a power that allows you to predict the future -- because I don't believe that the future is set," sophomore Derek Prijatel said.



MIDDLE FINGER (Saturn) Saturn is the father of Jupiter and is associated with wisdom. Short finger denotes irresponsible personality and a longer one denotes an industrious mind.

RING FINGER (Apollo) Apollo was the sun god. The ring finger reflects creativity. A short finger reveals lack of creativity and a long finger may reveal a gambling instinct.

INDEX FINGER (Jupiter) Jupiter was the ruler of the world, and the index finger represents ego and leadership qualities. A short finger shows self doubt and a long one shows bossiness.

LITTLE FINGER (Mercury) Mercury is the messenger of the gods. This finger reveals powers of self expression. The longer the finger, the more articulate the person. A curved finger can indicate deceit and untrustworthiness.

HEART LINE This line portrays your innermost feelings and how you relate to others. A strong line means that you are confident in sexuality and you are warm and generous. A weak line means that you have emotional problems. A straight line means that you are cautious in love, and a curved one means that you have a strong sex drive.,

HEAD LINE This line represents the way people view the world. It also describes your intellectual capacity. A thick line means that you are a dynamic thinker, and a weak one means that you have poor concentration. A straight line means that you are a focused thinker, and a curved one means that you are creative.

LIFE LINE If you have a short life line, it means that you have an uprooted past. A long line means that you have great stamina. Contrary to common belief, the life line is not actually an indicator of longevity.

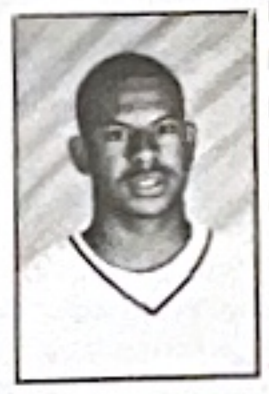
You can tell a lot about a person from their hands. Does the life line tell you how long you are going to live? Did you know that each finger has a special meaning? See if your palm-reading IQ is up to par by checking out the hand according to *The Art of Hand Reading* by Lori Reid.

"I don't think that people talk to ghosts or anything. But, I believe that people can have deja vu and see into the future during dreams."

-Charlene Oates
sophomore

"I don't believe in most of it, like psychic hotlines, but I believe that there is stuff that we can't see and don't know about."

-Elizabeth Maguda,
junior



"I believe in psychics, because strange stuff happens. I thought that I saw my grandmother in my room, but she is deceased."

-Idris Mahoney,
senior

I don't think anyone on earth knows everybody else's business or what is going to happen. I think they are crazy or just trying to earn money."

-Justine Konicki,
freshman

What lies beyond the psychic's door?

Two Shaker students bravely volunteer to meet with a psychic in hopes of learning what makes them tick. Alas, talking to them was not as easy as they thought it would be . . .

by Shaila Shah and Meredith Brizendine
Centerpiece co-editor and guest 'riter

Have you ever had the feeling that you are entering another world? A world in which you don't belong? Walking into lair of the Psychic Advisor on Lee Road, we entered that other world. We walked in, and no one was there. An aura of the supernatural and unusual surrounded us. A minute later someone came out. Whoa, how did they we were out there? *Oh yea*, I told myself, *they're psychic*! Then Meredith, seeing my puzzled expression, pointed to the door, which had a bell that gave away our arrival.

Our arrival at the PA did not come without some difficulty. For many days prior to our fateful visit, we called other psychic-type places around Cleveland. Each time, as soon as we said, "I have a question . . ." we were met with one of two psychic responses: "We're busy," or the more direct dial tone. It seems psychics don't like reporters. Perhaps they figured we'd expose their fortune tellings as nothing more than cheap Magic Eightball imitations.

Nevertheless, our goal was to find the elusive truth. We weren't really trying to expose people for the frauds they really are. But because they didn't talk to us, we wondered: Were they trying to hide something? Hmm . . .

Saturday morning, I called the Lee Road prognosticator. A very friendly but creepy sounding man answered my call. I told him that my name was Shaila and that we needed answers for our readers. He said a meeting could be arranged any time we showed up. Never in the conversation was money mentioned, nor did we ask for psychic advising.

After we arrived, we inquired if we could ask a few questions for our article, titled "Psychics are cool." (We know, we know. That's not the title of the article. But you see, it was a test! We figured if we were dealing with real psychics, they would know we were lying!) The psychic (she never gave us her name, so let's call her Madame Zoranda) said she couldn't answer any questions, psychically or otherwise, unless we paid to have something done.

That reminds us — money seemed to be a big thing. Unfortunately we didn't have a cent on us. We told her that we just wanted to ask about statistics and such. Madam Zoranda responded by pointing to the price sign on the wall. We tried to tell her about the conversation we had with the creepy man on the phone, but she just shook her head. (Apparently, creepy guy is low on the psychic advisor totem pole).

Madam Zoranda must have known our next question would be "How much?" because she pointed to the wall again. She's a psychic, right? Five dollars for one hand, $10 for two, and a whopping $50 for the all powerful crystal ball.

Disappointed, we decided to make an appointment for another day when we'd have money. As Monday was the only day we were both available, we asked if Madame would indeed be advising on President's Day. Of course, they replied.

"We never close," Madame Zoranda forecast.

So, we made an appointment for 4 p.m.

Monday came around, and we arrived promptly at 4. To our surprise and amazement, a huge red CLOSED sign graced the Psychic Advisor window.

"What's up with that?!? They lied!" we exclaimed. Some psychics! They can't even predict their own schedule.

The conclusion from our brief and most uninformative encounter?

They're not even psychic! All they want is money. And they lie.

We should have known better than to have believed in this bologna. If the creepy guy really was psychic, then he would have known that we wouldn't be given the time of day when we called.

Let it snow

By Rob Rains
Staff reporter

It's winter. Football season is over, and nobody knows or cares if wrestling season is still going. When Shaker is leading the hockey game by 50 goals, why not risk your life and potentially injure someone with a wide range of disreputable activities in the snow?

From snow forts to sledding to skiing, people are making sure they frolic and play in the wintry wonderland.

Brandywine ski area offers young skiers and snow boarders the chance to carve up the slopes and kick up the fresh powder as soon as it hits the mountain.

Due to a lackluster winter, in terms of snow, Brandywine's Areco snowmaker produces up to 56 inches, so gear up. Brandywine also features a half pipe and a train park, so you can finally try out all those cool moves that you can do on Nintendo Ten Eighty.

If you happen to see some guy flying down the mountain at a hundred miles an hour with skis [illegible] panic, it's just a new way to ski called skiboards.

Skiboards are picking up in popularity this year and were called by one Brandywine employee "the next big thing" in terms of winter sports. The skis measure about 24-26 inches long and have regular bindings. So unless that guy hits a tree, don't worry, and even then, you can just let ski patrol handle it.

After all these years, the big cheese of winter activities, sledding, still reigns supreme as people from all over Shaker flock to Thornton Park to sled down the hills.

Some people either don't have sleds or are unaware of the concept and thus use other objects to slide down the hill.

The most popular items include plastic bags, flat-soled shoes or small children who happen to be in the way.

If you aren't into doing much more than lying around during the winter, why not put on a coat and go lie in the snow? You can even make snow angels or a snowman.

A popular choice is making a snow fort or having a snowball fight with neighborhood traffic. Little hint the best snow to use is the yellow kind.

For anyone who lacks the time this winter, several juniors have *invented a new sport to beat the winter blues.*

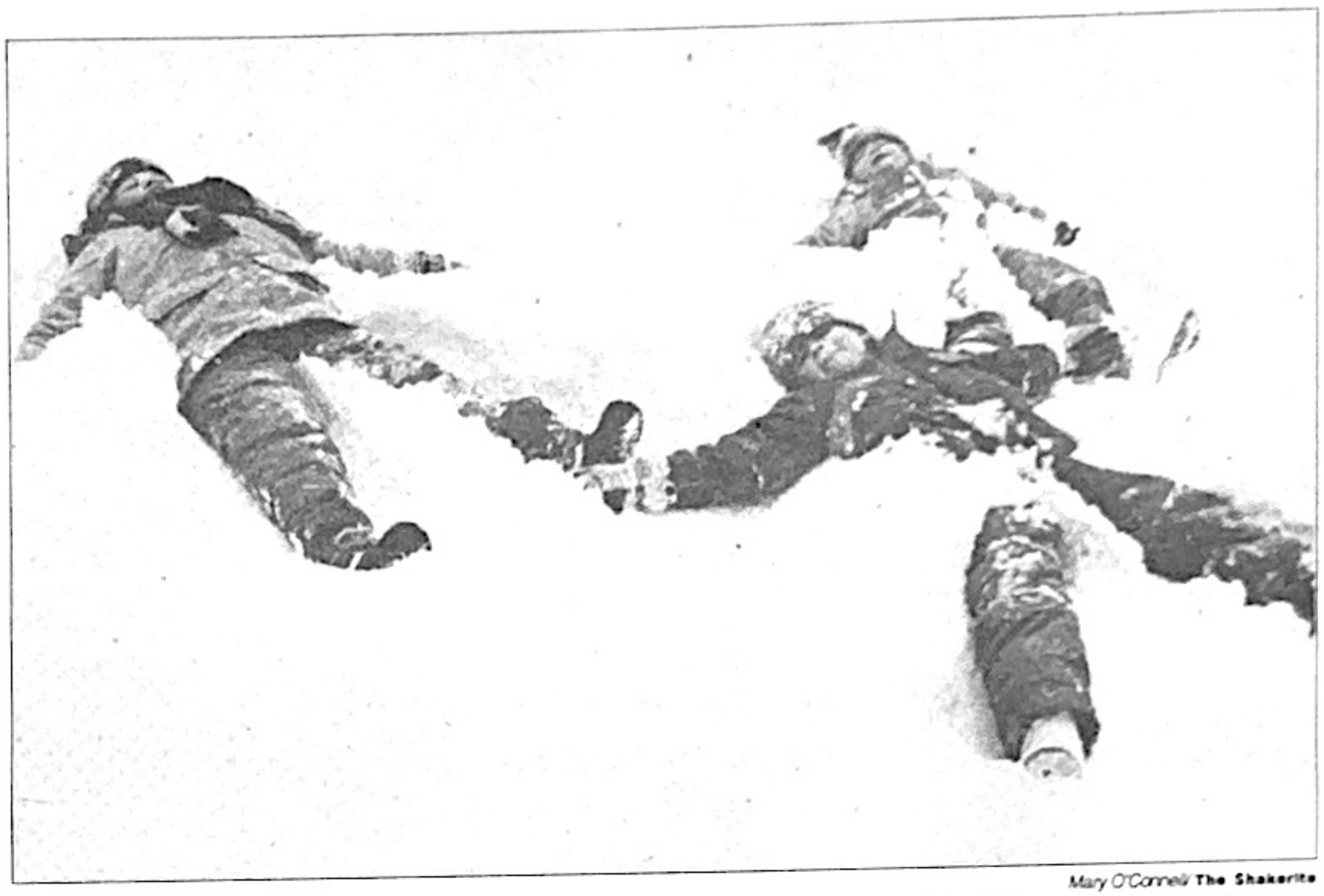
It requires only a sport utility vehicle, a water ski rope, a sled and a complete lack of common [illegible] Shaker students don't seem to have trouble fulfilling.

The sport has been dubbed "snow pulling." Use your imagination.

Junior Brian Wood, one of the sport's innovators, asserts that the new sport has much to offer in the way of educational value.

"Snow pulling will usually put you in touch with the laws of physics and sometimes in touch *with a spare tire on your SUV,"* Wood said.

So get out there and enjoy the snow while it's here. Before you know it, you'll be thinking of things to do to beat the summer heat.



Mary O'Connell/ The Shakerite

During Cleveland's snowy months opportunities to folic in the snow abound. If you aren't into doing much more than lying around during the winter, why not put on a coat and go lie in the snow? You can even make snow angels or a snow man. A popular choice is making a snow fort or having a snowball fight with neighborhood traffic. Little hint: the best snow to use is the yellow kind.

You could poke an eye out with that snow

Watch out for those Snow Goblins!

Ah, February. Traditionally one of Cleveland's snowiest months. With all of that white stuff plummeting to the ground, people, young and old, are tempted to frolic like hippies in a field. However, as much fun as snowball fights, building snow people, sledding or icicle sword fights can be, evil snow goblins await the chance to attack any subject with frostbite, hypothermia and frozen nose hairs.

Fade to a crisp winter evening. You and your friends are playing a joyful game of king (or queen) of the 10-foot snow mountain. As the struggle to prove victorious heats up, **Kablooie!** Out from the shadows slinks the Frostbite Goblin.

Alack! He strikes! Suddenly a close relative of freezer burn appears on your nose. But beware. That is no burn. It is in fact frozen tissue, the evil work of the goblin from the snowy underworld.

The Frostbite Goblin shows his face most often when outside temperatures are freezing and the wind (the villainous goblin's partner in crime) howls like a motherless baby in the night.

As you shiver in fear of the unknown, your friends stop the game of king (or queen) of the mountain and leap into action to save your very nose. They peel off layers of coats and hats and pile them atop you to ensure that the Frostbite Goblin doesn't steal any more of your precious body heat for his own sick uses. They then pick you up and place you ever so gently in a warm car. You travel to a home and soak your nose in warm water (remember – don't inhale!) until an appropriate pinkish-reddish color returns to the nearly perished proboscis. It takes about 45 minutes until your nose has been saved and the evil Frostbite Goblin retreats to his frosty lair. Take that, goblin!

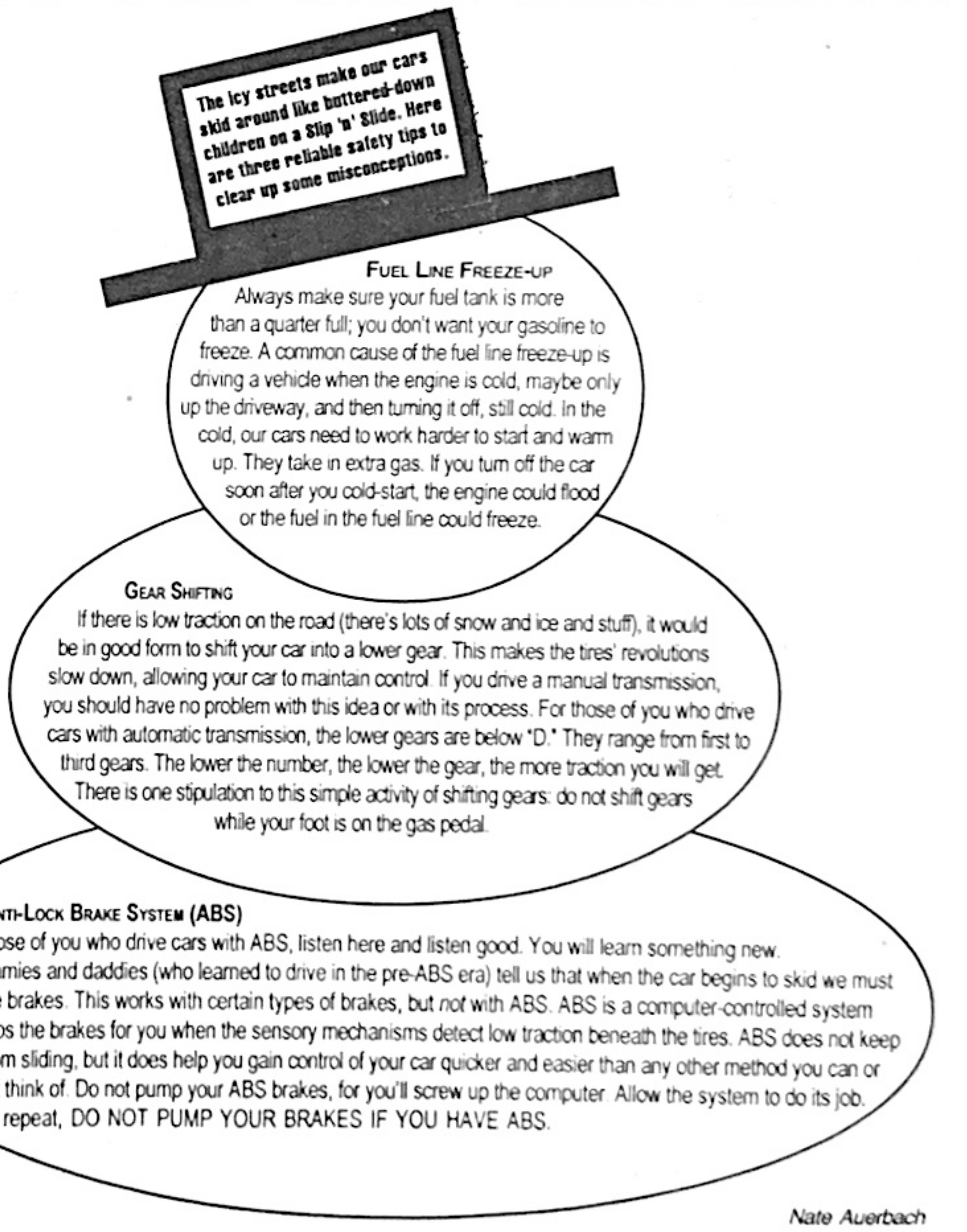
Meanwhile, back on the mountain, children frolic innocently, creating snow angels and forts. Oh dagg! What being hovers in the distance? This time, it's the Hypothermia Goblin (cousin to the loathed Frostbite Goblin). Run, children, run! Alas, they do not hear the cries of warning. Little Jimmy naively toils to create a snow doggie when he is attacked. The Hypothermia Goblin steals little Jimmy's body heat, and his young body struggles to keep a regulated temperature. Jimmy shivers uncontrollably. His once perfect judgment failing, he heads toward the yellow snow, salivating. However, halfway to what he thinks is lemon snow, he stops; his coordination is gone. He grows tired. His speech slurs as he calls in a feeble voice, "Help me, pleashe. Shomeone!"

Suddenly, from out of the cold afar, a man dressed as the sun, Mr. Warmth, runs to Jimmy and covers him with blankets. As Jimmy is properly protected from the wind, Mr. Warmth takes Jimmy into his arms and whisks him to a warm, dry room. He applies warm water bottles to Jimmy's frigid body. In time, Jimmy is saved, and the Hypothermia Goblin is defeated! HA!

Armed with this new knowledge of the Snow Goblins,you as a Cleveland citizen are safe to romp about in the snow worry free. You now hold the power to send those Goblins back to the frosty hell whence they came.

Now go, make the best of the snow. Embrace it; do not curse it! Frolic! Build! Sled! Have fun. And remember, no snow goblin is a nice goblin!

Jesse Griffiths



The icy streets make our cars skid around like buttered-down children on a Slip 'n' Slide. Here are three reliable safety tips to clear up some misconceptions.

FUEL LINE FREEZE-UP

Always make sure your fuel tank is more than a quarter full; you don't want your gasoline to freeze. A common cause of the fuel line freeze-up is driving a vehicle when the engine is cold, maybe only up the driveway, and then turning it off, still cold. In the cold, our cars need to work harder to start and warm up. They take in extra gas. If you turn off the car soon after you cold-start, the engine could flood or the fuel in the fuel line could freeze.

GEAR SHIFTING

If there is low traction on the road (there's lots of snow and ice and stuff), it would be in good form to shift your car into a lower gear. This makes the tires' revolutions slow down, allowing your car to maintain control. If you drive a manual transmission, you should have no problem with this idea or with its process. For those of you who drive cars with automatic transmission, the lower gears are below "D." They range from first to third gears. The lower the number, the lower the gear, the more traction you will get. There is one stipulation to this simple activity of shifting gears: do not shift gears while your foot is on the gas pedal.

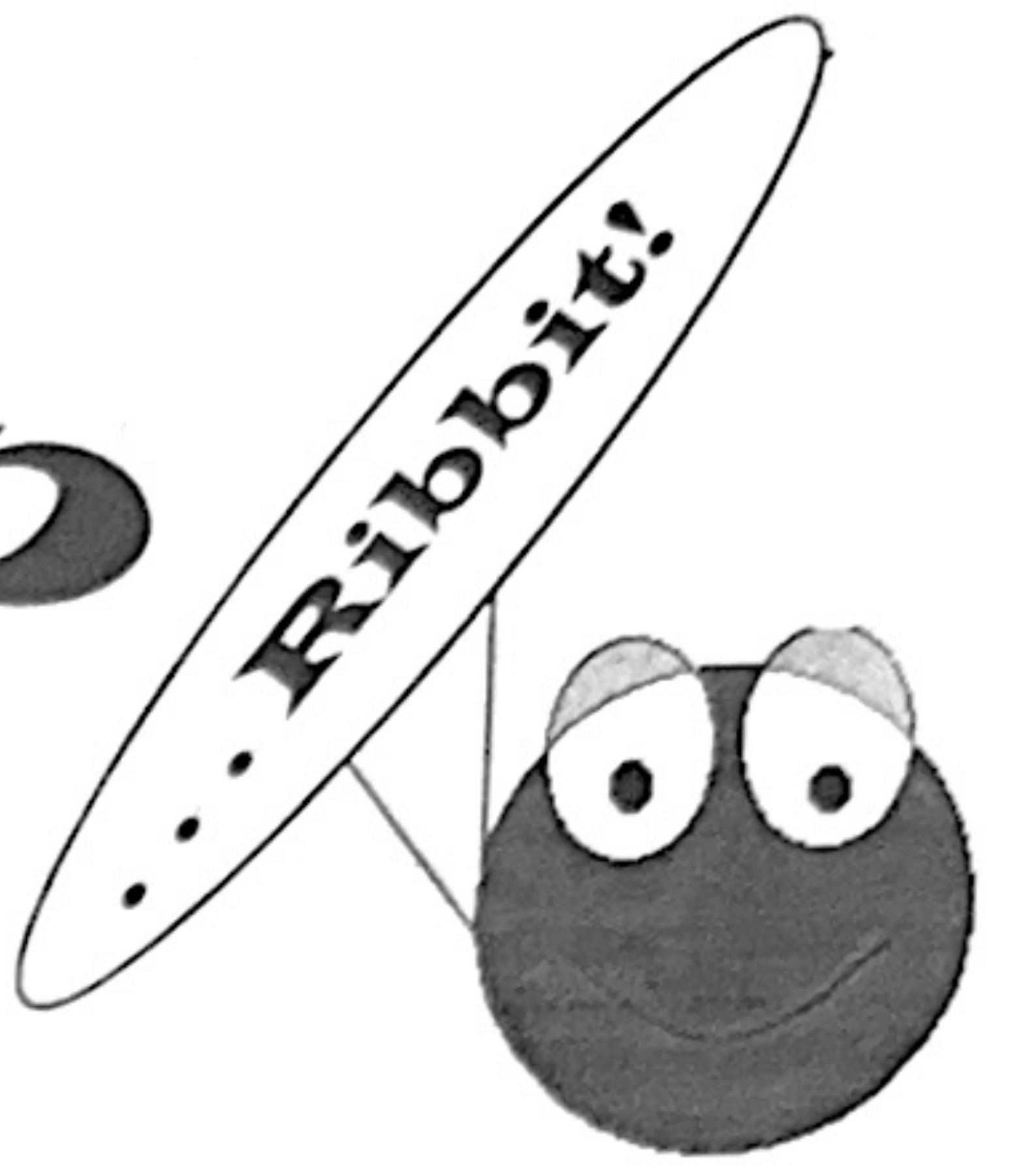
THE ANTI-LOCK BRAKE SYSTEM (ABS)

For those of you who drive cars with ABS, listen here and listen good. You will learn something new. Our mommies and daddies (who learned to drive in the pre-ABS era) tell us that when the car begins to skid we must pump the brakes. This works with certain types of brakes, but *not* with ABS. ABS is a computer-controlled system that pumps the brakes for you when the sensory mechanisms detect low traction beneath the tires. ABS does not keep you from sliding, but it does help you gain control of your car quicker and easier than any other method you can or cannot think of. Do not pump your ABS brakes, for you'll screw up the computer. Allow the system to do its job.

I repeat, DO NOT PUMP YOUR BRAKES IF YOU HAVE ABS.

Nate Auerbach

A flying leap into March!



By Megan Johnston
Staff reporter

What exactly is leap year? We know it happens in February every four years, but who thought of it, and why do we have it?

It all started with the idea that everything on our planet should be nice and even. Every year we wanted Jan. 1 to be cold and the planting season to be the same.

But because the Earth's orbit and rotation were different, there was just no nice and even way to split up the year.

First, we tried 360 days, but that left us five sunrises and sunsets out of synch with the calendar.

Then we tried 365¼ days per year, but each year remained 11 minutes and 14 seconds off of the actual planetary rotation of the Earth, and the seasons started to move.

Leaders feared that snow would fall in June and it would be rain in December. So, during the reign of Julius Caesar, while rearranging the entire western calendar, scientists determined that we needed to have leap year.

Thanks to the Romans we began to add one day every fourth year, tacked on as Feb. 29. However, in 1582 Pope Gregory realized that we were still ten days off from a normal schedule because we had gone so many years without leaping.

Pope Gregory devised a two-part plan. First, he would eliminate 10 days. Second, every century divisible by 400 would be a leap year. These "extra" leap years would help to keep the calendar in even closer alignment with the Earth's rotation.

This plan was called the Gregorian Calendar. As planned, 10 days were eliminated on October 5. However, when all of Rome went to sleep on October 5 and woke up on October 15, the people feared some vast government conspiracy.

The Pope was trying to shorten the lives of the people! But the fears quickly subsided and to this day we still use the Gregorian Calendar.

However, the entire world changed their calendars at different times. The colonies did not develop leap year until 1752, and by this time they needed to eliminate 11 days to catch up.

Now the majority of nations adhere to the Gregorian Calendar. Every four years there are 29 days in February, and every century divisible by 400 is a leap year.

Despite what may be assumed, there is little confusion for people whose birthdays fall on the rare Feb. 29.

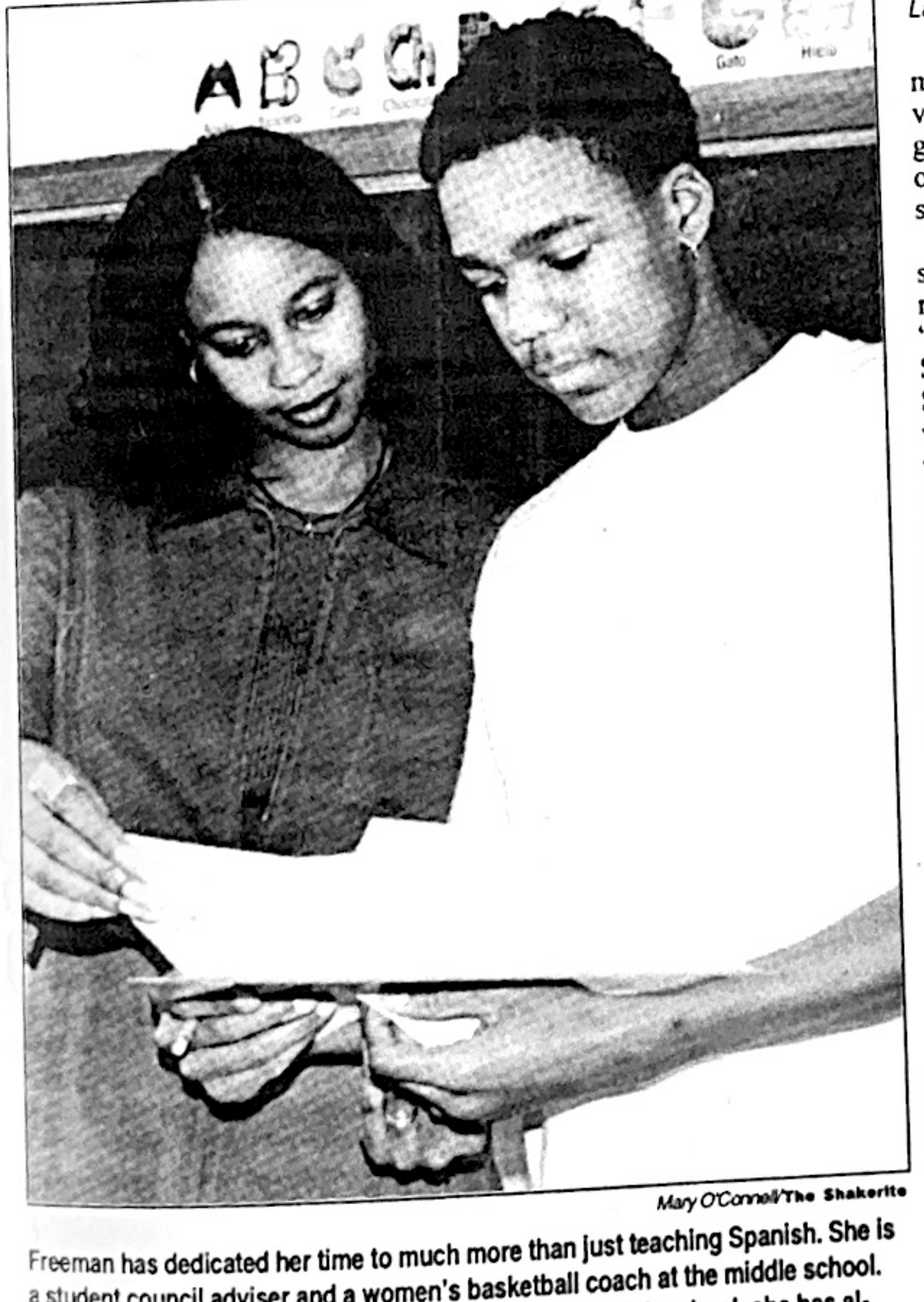
Most leap babies simply celebrate their birthdays on Feb. 28. When asked if there is anything unique about being born on Feb. 29, sophomore Robert Price said simply "No."

"The only thing special is that people tease me about being a quarter their age," freshman Michael Mincek said.

So, without causing the public much confusion, leap year keeps us closer to Mother Nature's dictated year. Still, as astronomy teacher Gene Zajac says, the irony is that "In our attempt to be closer to nature, we have just gone farther away."

Emily Phillips/The Shakerite

Freeman defines renaissance woman


Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

Freeman has dedicated her time to much more than just teaching Spanish. She is a student council adviser and a women's basketball coach at the middle school. Although she just joined the faculty community at the high school, she has already found her niche.

By Stephanie Gabarik
Layout editor

Lorraine Freeman holds numerous titles: teacher, coach, adviser . . . the list goes on. But juggling many responsiblities at once doesn't challenge Freeman, she's done it her entire life.

Freeman has been at the high school for two years and has already jumped head-first into the "wonderful opportunities" here. She is a faculty adviser for Sanfoka and student council, as well as coach for the middle school girls' basketball and volleyball teams. Freeman also works with Partnership 2000, a school-based group that works to close achievement gaps.

teacher FEATURE

"This is actually my first year with Sanfoka, and I am very excited," Freeman said a few days before the performance.

This year is also Freeman's first year as a student council adviser, a position she shares with Sally Hagstrand.

"We are having a good time together, " Hagstrand said. "I enjoy her input. I think we work really well together."

Freeman compliments Shaker on the caring faculty and opportunities.

"My high school was very traditional and old fashioned. The teachers weren't young like they are here and they couldn't relate to us," Freeman said.

Freeman attended Richmond Heights High School where she played many intramural sports.

"I had to play football, volleyball and basketball at the intramural level, because the rest of my schedule was too tight," she said.

She also played sports at the intramural level at the University of Akron while earning an English degree.

"During my junior year [at Akron], I was chosen to be an ambassador to Puerto Rico," she said. During this academic exchange, she improved her Spanish skills, and eventually decided to return to college for a Spanish degree.

"I have also traveled to Venezuela, Mexico and Aruba," she said. "I stopped in Dominican Republic on a cruise."

While studying for her second degree, Freeman worked as a bank teller and as a runway model for Saks Fifth Avenue in various bridal shows. She also substituted in the Cleveland school district, which encouraged her to attend John Carroll University for a master's degree in education.

"At first, I didn't want to be a teacher. I was going to be a lawyer, but after I subbed in Cleveland, I realized that students need someone they can relate to," Freeman said.

Many students believe that she has easily fulfilled this mission.

"Ms. Freeman is really honest," said senior Sankofa member Max Roberts. "There is not a lot of nonsense with her."

"She was the type of teacher that you could tell anything to," said junior Dean Jones, who had Freeman as his Spanish II teacher last year. "She was really easy to relate to."

Some multiple-year Sankofa members, such as sophomore Imani Farley, have noticed the difference Freeman brought to Sankofa.

"She helped to keep things in order," Farley said. "She helped a lot of people feel more comfortable with their speaking roles."

Freeman is accesible so students feel comfortable with her. She speaks to students with respect and familiarity, often ending or beginning sentences with "baby." She is very perceptive to her students' abilities and comprehension levels.

"She brings a lot of youth, energy and talent to the department," said Spanish department-head Norma Guice. "As a matter of fact, if you watch her for too long, you get tired. She does everything, from athletics to Sankofa to helping her students after school."

Nate Auerbach
Feature co-editor

Honor thy passing time

When the bell rings to end a class, many students head to the drinking fountain to lap up some water after a grueling period of class participation. Others run and find their peers to get that homework they need to copy.

But given the right moisture in the air and lighting in the building, the four minutes we students are given between classes could possibly be a life-changing experience rather than a routine.

The most exciting parts of a school day rarely occur inside a boring classroom (that's actually a redundant phrase). Think about it: everything critical in your day takes place during passing time, within four minutes.

Case in point: Third period ends and you head to the water fountain down the hall. You notice a beautiful human whose lips join with the waterflow like none other you have seen before.

After wiping the drool off your chin, you clumsily run into this person. Your eyes meet, as do the two of you. You no longer have to stay [illegible], you have a date.

You have met your high school sweetheart, and you still have 2.5 minutes to get to class. You have time to run to the nearest bathroom and pee with glee.

As you exit the facilities, 1.7 minutes remain. On your way to class, you're stopped by a TV news reporter and a videographer. They're interviewing students about the upcoming primary. You think of something clever and speak it into the microphone with a bright smile.

You think nothing of this television appearance until the next day, when you receive a phone call from a modeling agent who happened to watch the 6 o'clock news. After a few negotiations, you appear on Abercrombie's next bag.

In four minutes you managed to quench your thirst, fall in love and launch a successful career in modeling.

Everyday we see students cut classes. But have you ever seen anyone cut passing time? Of course not. This time is too valuable.

The four minutes between classes are too precious to waste by sticking your face in a locker or arriving two minutes early to class. You will miss out on the excitement that is electrifying the hallways. We should approach each passing time ready to encounter amazing experiences.

I think my hero, Bayside's Zach Morris, said it best: "I love school. Too bad classes get in the way."

Oh oh it's organic, you know it!

•As Americans become more health conscious, new forms of food growth, such as organic farming, are becoming more popular

By Jesse Griffiths
Feature co-editor

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99¢ $1.69 99¢
$1.39

Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

Natural food stores are spreading across Ohio like wild fire now a days. Among the products sold there are walls and walls of organic fruits and vegetables in every flavor imaginable. Pictured above are just some of the vast brands of organic vegetables, including red cabbage, broccoli, spinach, organic leeks and organic daikon.

Imagine walking through a grocery store looking for a nice tasty apple to gnaw down upon. While dreaming of the sweet nectar waiting just beyond the apple's skin, you look up to find yourself in the produce isle. What do you see, but apples, apples and more apples?

There are Gala, Fuji, MacIntosh, and organic? Perplexed by this "organic" apple, you grab your head and run screaming away from the mountains of apples. Who would have the indecency to not wax their apples and not inject them with chemicals?

To ensure your sanity the next time you venture into your local grocery store, you should probably know what organic foods are. An organic food product is a vegetable or fruit grown with strict guidelines.

No chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used when growing organic foods, and there is no genetic obstruction of the food's production.

Instead of using manmade chemicals to produce crops, organic farmers have learned special tricks to use the land to their advantage. For example, when certain plants are grown in one small area together, they provide the nutrients required to maintain each other's health, and they strengthen the soil beneath.

Certain crop arrangements also help to aid against pest attacks.

The lack of chemicals means that the soil and water will be healthier, thus the ecosystem surounding the organic farm is healthier.

There are other benefits to organic foods and farming outside of the environmental ones.

Organic foods are generally not shipped to cities across the country, rather sold closer to their birthplaces. Therefore, the local economy is helped by the sales of locally grown foods.

When purchasing nonorganic foods, you never really know what you are going to be putting in your mouth.

With all of society's technological advances, it has become easier and more advantageous for big companies to "tweak" foods.

Scientists have found ways to, for example, add pig genes to tomatoes to create a more durable skin for transportation and storage.

More simply, they wax apples so that when you are examining which shiny one is the shiniest, you can also fix your hair and/or pluck your eyebrows.

The process of genetically modifying (GM) foods is still relatively new; however, there are no laws regulating the labeling of GM goods.

Agriculture companies that participate in this cruel activity are not required to communicate whether or not their products are genetically engineered nor do they have to specify to what extent.

As of right now, there is no way of telling what may be lurking in the produce section of the grocery store.

Scientists say that manipulating the DNA of plants with the DNA of things that the plant would not normally reproduce with can cause unpredictable and dangerous side effects.

In other words, you may want to start eating organic foods if you don't want to become a mutant.

So where in this chemically infested, non-tree-hugging city can we find organic foods? Well unless you have been hybernating for the past year, business has been booming.

The most convenient places to purchase organics are the local food co-ops. The nearest one is located on Coventry Road between Euclid Heights Boulevard and Mayfield Road in Cleveland Heights.

There is also a Nature's Bin market on the corner of Lee and Silsby roads, also in Cleveland Heights. The Mustard Seed Market, which used to exist only in Montrose near Akron, has extended its roots to downtown Solon.

What may be hiding in your food?

- Pig genes
- Processed fish
- Toad genes
- Alar - a harmful pesticide

Organic benefits

*Land use is maximized; results in less pollution and top soil loss

*Local economy benefits

*The only nutrients taken from the land are those which are harvested.

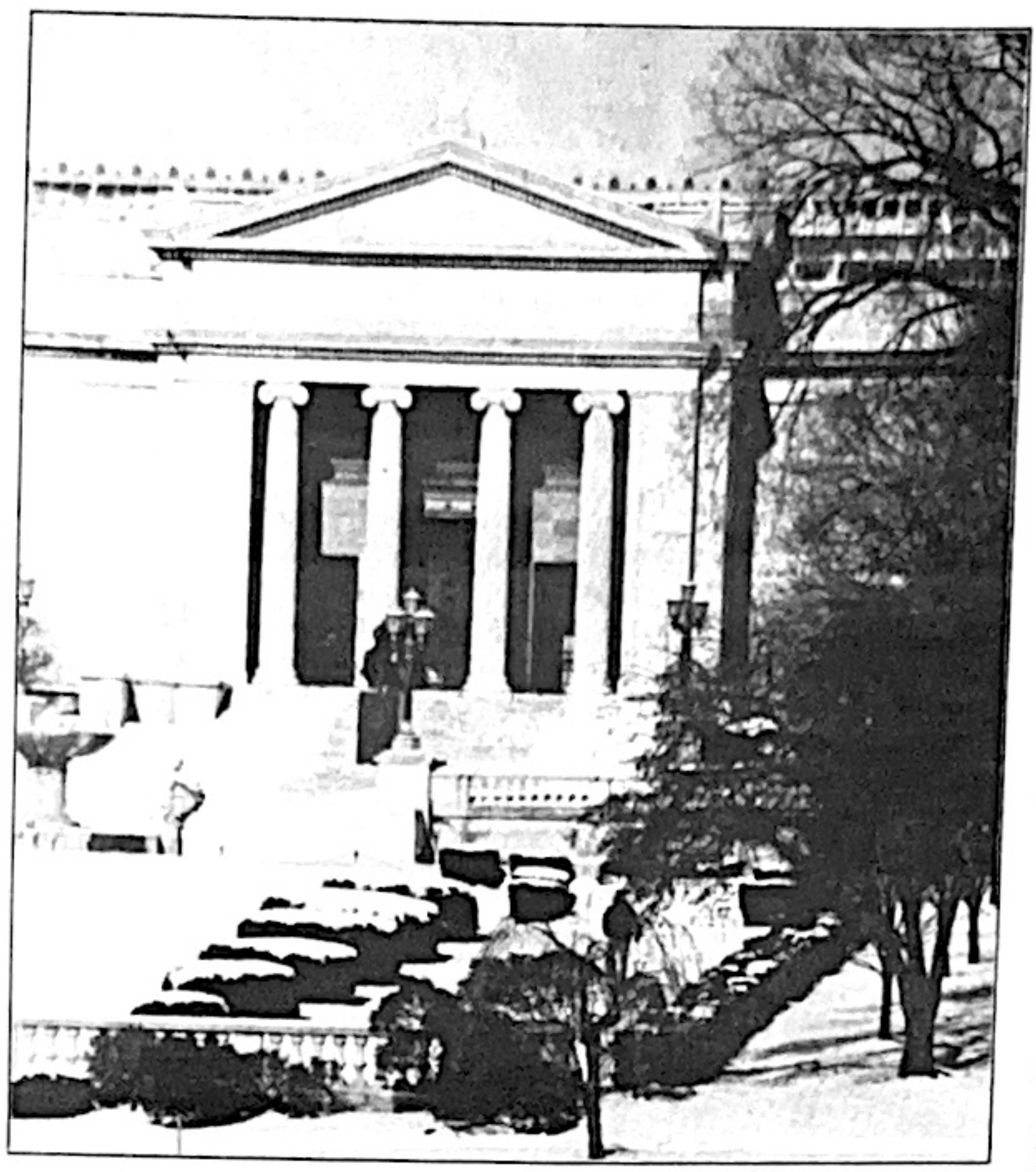
Want to learn more about organic foods? Check out these sites

- Pure Foods Locations: http://www.purefood.org/purelink.html
- Nutrition and food Systems: http://www.pmac.net/orgdebat.htm
- Don't Panic, Eat Organic: http://www.rain.org/~sals/my.html
- Organic Trade Asociation: http://www.ota.com/news.htm

Discover the Cleveland Museum of Art

• Museum offers a variety of treasures from the past and present

By Beth Dolinsky
Copy editor



Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

The Cleveland Museum of Art was founded in 1913. It is regarded as one of the finest museums in the nation.

Living in Shaker Heights, we are all aware that we don't have the entertainment opportunities available to teenagers in larger cities. While we might have to look a little harder to find something to do than someone in New York City, we tend to overlook the choices that are less than 20 minutes away.

If you're looking for a way to expand your mind, develop an appreciation for culture or impress your date, consider stopping by the Cleveland Museum of Art.

The museum was established in 1913 and is one of the nation's leading museums with comprehensive Asian, medieval European and modern art collections. In addition to its 40,000 piece collection, the Museum also displays 13-17 special exhibitions on a rotating basis each year. The museum includes traditional paintings, including masterpieces of famous European craftsmen. However, the exhibits include more modern art and pieces from Africa and Asia. In the past few years, these exhibits have included Fabrege eggs and still-lifes of the Dutch masters. Currently the museum is displaying *Treasures from the Royal Tombs of Ur* through April.

The museum can be integrated into a general education. Not every student learns best from reading textbooks and cramming for exams, and the art museum offers a new angle. Instead of memorizing the dates for the great wars of Europe, you can tour the museum and see how painters of the time interpreted events. A visual lesson can teach much more than a textbook and it isn't possible to capture an artist's feeling in a standard video from the '70s. Especially for the more visual student, a picture is worth far more than a thousand words.

Although we may think of the art museum as the big building we were herded through once a year every year in elementary school, it holds much more interest than we may think. Where else can you see a Picasso, Monet or the ancient Egyptian tombs - for free? On any given day, you can take a slightly different route through the museum and change your view of the art world. Feeling confused? Try the Impressionists. Contemplating philosophy? See the paintings and sculpture from the Reformation. Looking to get away from it all? View modern pieces or those from the Orient.

As an entertainment option, the museum has been growing in popularity among teenagers. It is a place large enough to get lost in on a snowy day or to enjoy the air conditioning in the summer. Anyone interested in a specific artist or time period can find numerous resources, while many students may find an evening wandering in the museum a more creative option for a date than a movie.

While it might not be as popular as a Backstreet Boys concert, more students have expressed an interest in art history or have just come to the museum to spend the day. If you're not yet convinced of the museum's merits, in what other ways can you impress your parents?

In addition, the museum offers classes for younger children, giving them a chance to explore art techniques and then see those techniques as used by Warhol or Matisse.

The museum is open 10-5 Tuesday through Sunday, and 10-9 Wednesdays and Fridays. Admission to general exhibits is free.

Megan Kortemeyer
A&E editor

Teen movies have to go

WARNING: The following column might mention names such as Freddie Prinze, Jr. and even Britney Spears. If you don't think you can stomach this type of talk, save yourself and stop reading now.

The other week I went to see *Down to You*, the new movie starring Prinze and Julia Stiles. While I won't go into details about the plot (for the review, see page 17), I will say it was one of those movies that makes you check your watch every 10 minutes and silently groan each time an incredibly cheesy line escapes from one of the character's mouths. Particularly awful were the moments when the actors looked straight into the camera and shared their feelings. Is it just me, or am I the only one who doesn't really care about the characters' innermost feelings? Everyone struggles at times with life and relationships. It doesn't mean that we stop in the middle of Starbucks and talk about it to no one in particular (if some of you out there do, go and see *Down to You* -- I guarantee you'll enjoy it).

This movie is just an example of the disturbing Hollywood effort to deluge teenagers with movie after movie supposedly modeled after "real life." The formula is simple: take a cute guy, a cute girl (or, better yet, a dorky girl who is miraculously changed into a raving beauty just by changing her haircut) add some sort of conflict that can easily be resolved within two hours, a soundtrack featuring tracks by teen idols such as Britney Spears & Co. (don't even get me started on that topic) and BOOM! you have yourself a motion picture that will take in some big bucks. The formula can be altered slightly so people don't begin to think they are repeatedly paying $7 for the same movie (a thought to consider: in all of these "teen" movies, has the guy ever failed to get the girl? Do the movies ever end without at least one scene of the couple kissing beneath the stars? Hmmm...).

It's not that teen movies can't be enjoyable. I admit I liked *She's all That*, and who can forget some classic teen movies from the '80s, such as *The Breakfast Club*. Some teenage-oriented films became legends, such as 1955's *Rebel Without A Cause*. But today's movies that are marketed to 13 to 18-year-olds don't have much of a message (if they have one at all). When you walk out of the theater, is any part of *Down to You* really going to stick? Chances are, no. With so many good movies out there right now why not spend money on something you will remember?

the box OFFICE

Tonight
Smash Mouth
E.J. Thomas Hall
•
2/27
Punk Fest 2000
Peabody's
•
2/28
Pretenders
Akron Civic Theatre

3/9
Backstreet Boys
Gund Arena
•
3/10
Lit
Odeon Concert Club
•
3/11
Emerging Artists
Odeon Concert CLub
•
3/18
The Ballet Jeunesse,
featuring 10 Shaker students
Hawken Upper School Auditorium

3/21
Third Eye Blind
with Tonic
Akron Civic Theatre
•
3/23
Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young
Gund Arena
•
3/31
Cash Money/Ruff Ryders tour, featuring DMX, Juvenile, Eve and Lil Wayne
Gund Arena

For senior Arielle Fain, singing can't be beat

By Meredith Edwards
Staff reporter

a&e raider of THE MONTH

Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

Senior Arielle Fain joined the Shaker A Cappella choir in her junior year. "She has a beautiful voice. I love to hear her sing while we're in choir," junior Jasmine Phillips said.

Arielle Fain has been singing ever since she has "been able to talk." But her passion for song wasn't always obvious.

"I can remember a couple of years ago when Arielle was scared to sing a solo with the class. Now she shares her beautiful voice with the whole school," said senior and fellow choir member Meghan Crosby.

Fain, a senior who has never taken private voice lessons, began singing in her church's youth choir and is still an active member. It is in school, however, where her voice is most widely heard. Since her junior year, Fain has been adding her voice to the Shaker Heights A Cappella choir.

"Arielle has a beautiful soprano voice and is an integral part of the choir," said choir director Robert Schneider. "She also shows real dedication to her singing and the choir in general." Fain serves as an officer and one of the secretaries of the choir.

Fain's peers also admire her singing.

"She has a beautiful voice and she sounds professional when she sings, like an adult. She also takes pride in her singing," senior Christin Paige said.

Junior Aaron Abernathy agreed.

"She has a great voice and she can sing really high, which is difficult," Abernathy said.

Fain also participates in Sankofa and Women Helping Educate Women. Her Feb. 14 Sankofa performance lasting impression on the audience.

"I think she sounds really pretty, and I wish I could sing like her," said sophomore Kate Coulton.

Like any other performer, Fain has had her share of good and bad experiences.

"My best memory involving singing is when I was in front of the school at the recent assembly. It felt really good, and one of the best things in the world is just being on stage," she said.

"I would have to say the worst was when I was out of town [performing] and doing really good, and then I forgot the words to the song! Fortunately, after a few minutes, I remembered them again."

Love for music runs in Fain's family. Her grandmother and mother sing, and Fain says she gets her inspiration from her mom and artists like Lauryn Hill.

Fain enjoys singing a wide variety of music.

"I'm not big on country, but I do like soul and church music. Choir songs [such as] spirituals and opera aren't bad, either."

Fain said singing will always be one of her favorite things to do. After graduation, she plans to continue to pursue her musical aspirations.

"I hope to minor in vocal performance in college," Fain said. "I will sing anywhere! I'm happy as long as I'm singing."

THE 1999-2000 SHAKER CHOICE AWARDS

SECOND ANNUAL AWARDS HONOR THE BEST IN ENTERTAINMENT

By Megan Kortemeyer
A&E editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences named their choices for the top films of the past year. The winners of these prestigious awards known as the Oscars will be announced in front of millions March 26. However, we here at *The Shakerite* are proud to say that our equally illustrious awards have already been chosen and are presented to you, the students and staff of the high school, below.

This year, the nominating process was reconfigured to involve more people. Blank ballots were distributed to 100 students who had the chance to name their favorites in the categories of movies, music and television. The most popular responses for each category were tallied and put onto another ballot, which was voted on by 300 students. The winners are listed in bold print.

There was a wide variety of nominees this year, and a number of tight races. Some student favorites returned, such as perennial award-winner Tom Hanks for *The Green Mile* and the Dave Matthews Band. There were also some new faces. Fresh from stunning audiences as disillusioned baby boomer Lester Burnham in *American Beauty*, Kevin Spacey pulled out slightly ahead of Denzel Washington's powerhouse performance as boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter to win the award for best actor.

In the category of best movie of the year, *American Beauty* racked up another win, barely beating that other "American" movie, *American Pie*.

In the music contests, the unstoppable Backstreet Boys proved they were superior to their boy band counterparts, as they were the only group of their type to get a nomination. They edged out the resurgent Carlos Santana and his Grammy-nominated *Supernatural* for best album, but lost to the Dave Matthews Band in the category for best musical group, who won for the second year in a row.

Other winners included DMX, Angelina Jolie and newcomer Christina Aguilera in their respective categories. An honorable mention should go to Homer Simpson, who won many write-in votes for best television actor.

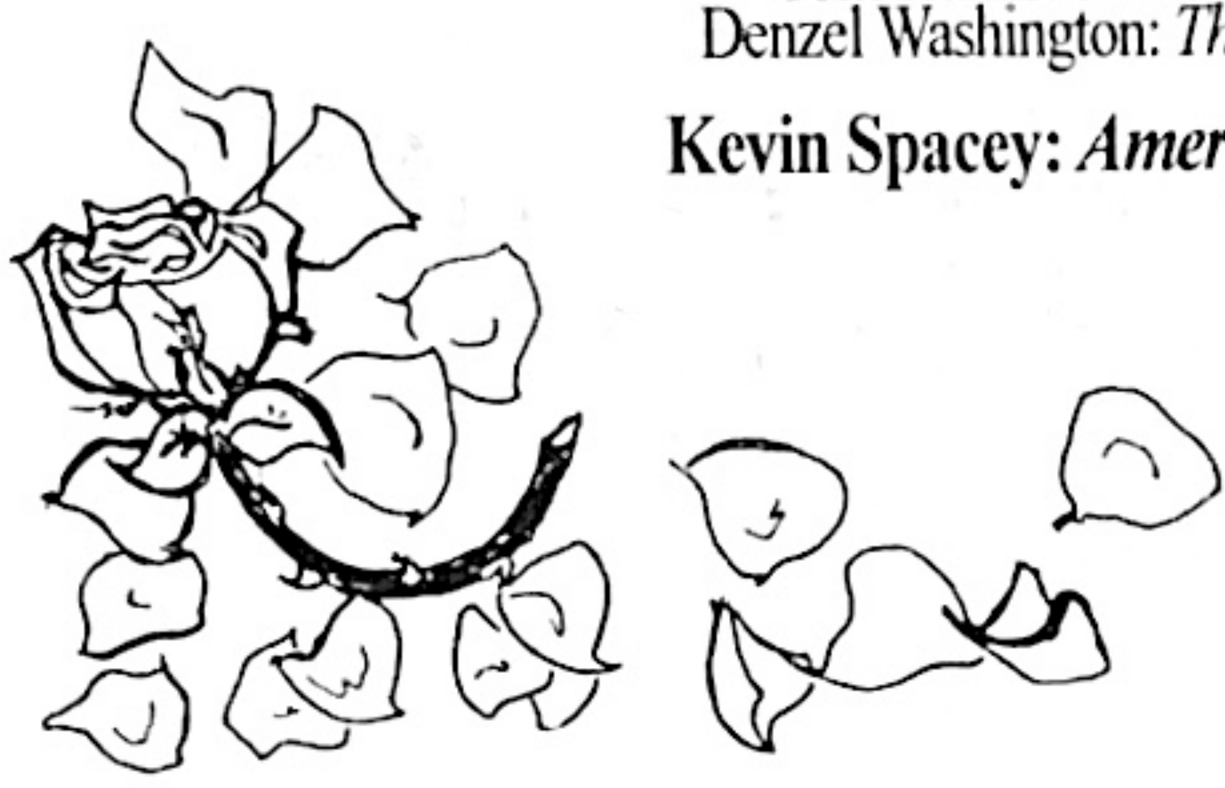
Song of the year was Juvenile's profound "Back That Thing Up," while Calista Flockhart (aka Ally McBeal) picked up her second Shaker Choice Award, just nipping vampire-slaying Sarah Michelle Gellar.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in both the nominating and the voting processes and thus helped these awards live up to their name. Below are the rest of this year's winners and losers.

BEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR

American Pie
The Hurricane
South Park
The Best Man

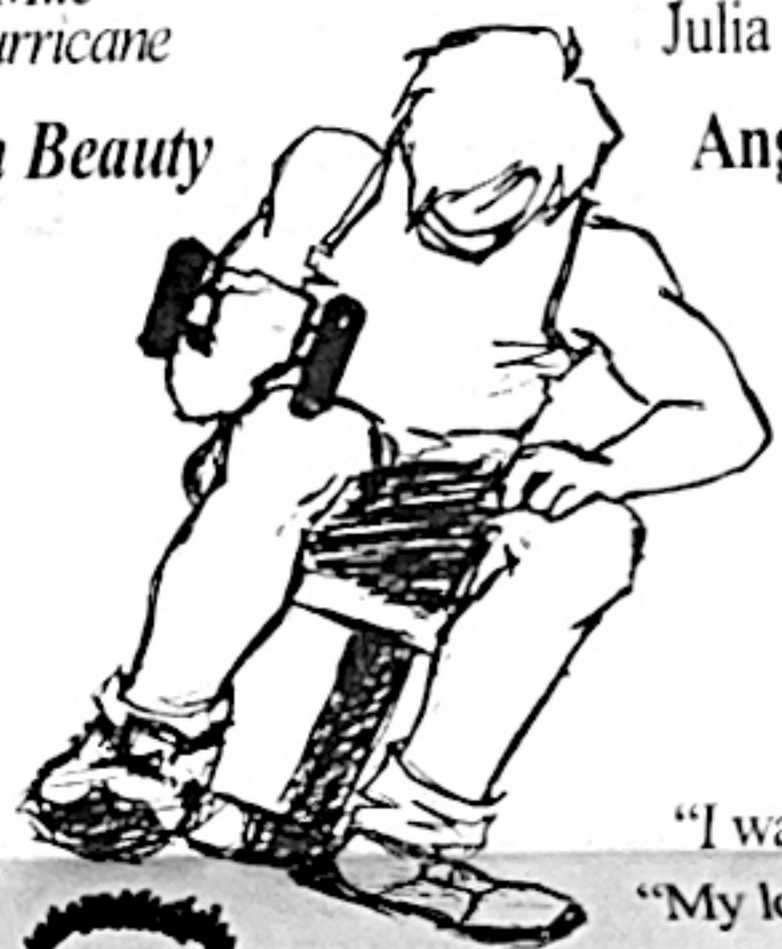
American Beauty



BEST MOVIE PERFORMANCE (MALE)

Taye Diggs: *The Best Man*
Tom Hanks: *The Green Mile*
Denzel Washington: *The Hurricane*

Kevin Spacey: *American Beauty*



BEST MOVIE PERFORMANCE (FEMALE)

Annette Bening: *American Beauty*
Gywneth Paltrow: *The Talented Mr. Ripley*
Julia Stiles: *10 Things I Hate About You*

Angelina Jolie: *Girl, Interrupted*

BEST ALBUM

Dr. Dre: *2001*
Jay-Z: *The Life and Times of Sean Carter*
Santana: *Supernatural*

Backstreet Boys: *Millennium*

BEST SONG

"I want it that way": Backstreet Boys
"Maria, Maria": Santana
"My love is your love": Whitney Houston

Back that thing up: Juvenile

BEST MALE SOLOIST

Dr. Dre
Ricky Martin
Carlos Santana

DMX

BEST MUSICAL GROUP

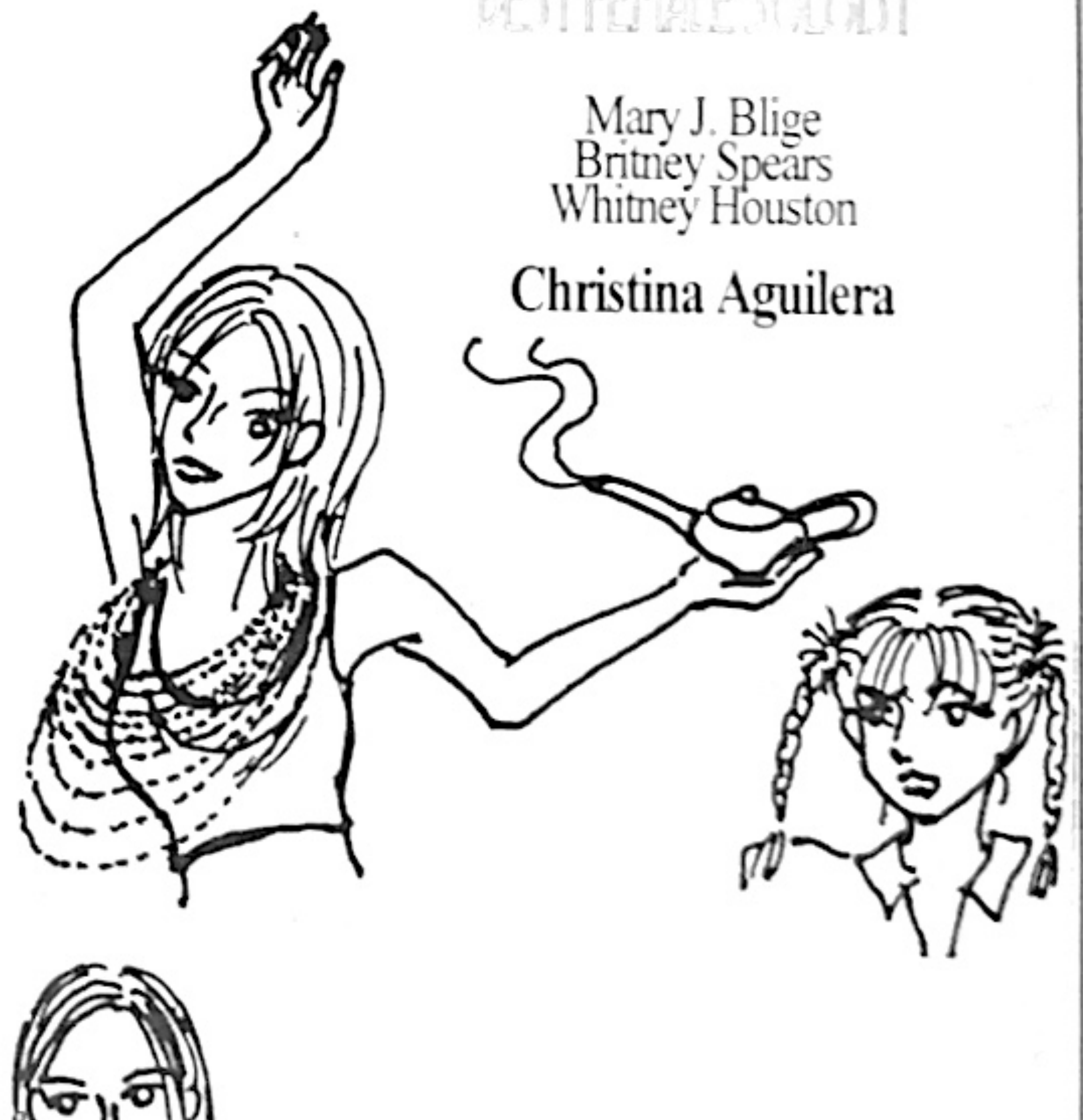
Backstreet Boys
Destiny's Child

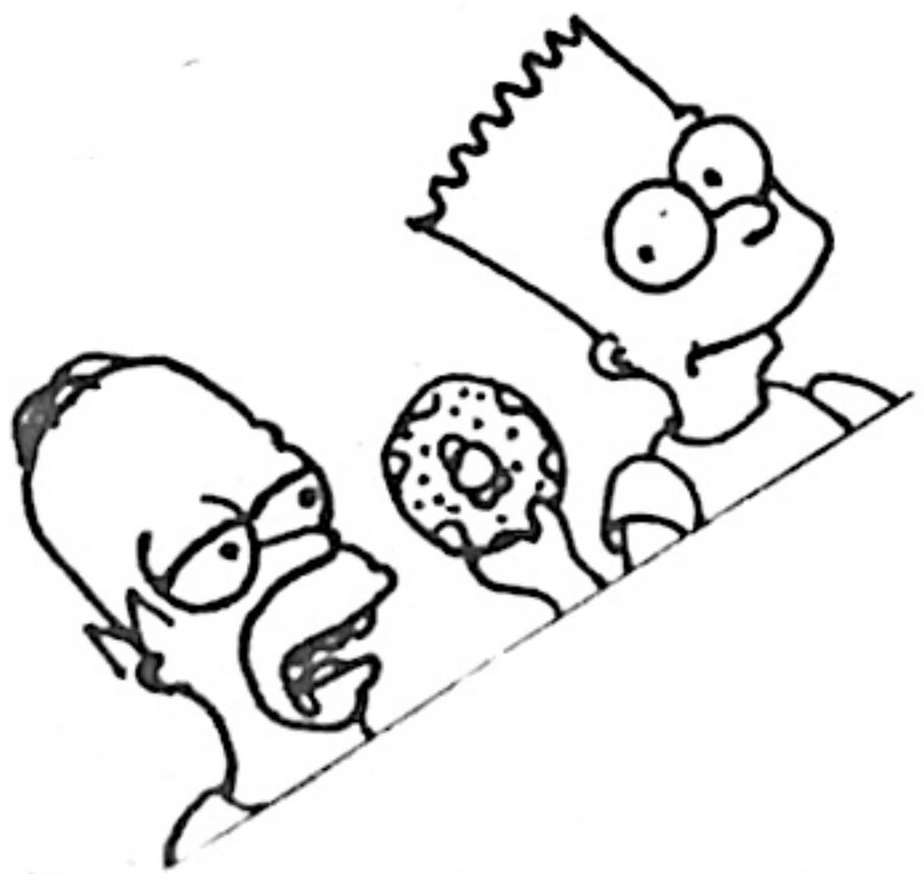
Dave Matthews Band

BEST FEMALE SOLOIST

Mary J. Blige
Britney Spears
Whitney Houston

Christina Aguilera





BEST TELEVISION ACTOR

Jamie Foxx: *The Jamie Foxx Show*
Sean Hayes: *Will and Grace*
Marlon Wayans: *The Wayans Bros.*

Dylan McDermott: *The Practice*

BEST TELEVISION SHOW

Felicity
The Practice
Who Wants to be a Millionaire?

The Simpsons

BEST TELEVISION ACTRESS

Brandy: *Moesha*
Sarah Michelle Gellar: *Buffy, The Vampire Slayer*
Camyrn Manheim: *The Practice*

Calista Flockhart: *Ally McBeal*

Sayaka Fujioka and Emily Phillips/The Shakerite

The reviews are in with mixed results. . .

• DiCaprio sinks with *The Beach*, D'Angelo adds some soul, *Scream* trilogy finishes with a bang

Movies

Scream 3

Starring: David Arquette, Courtney Cox Arquette, Neve Campbell
Rated: R

Let me start by saying that if I were Sydney Prescott (Neve Campbell) I think I would have moved to a remote island on the other side of the earth a long time ago. Fortunately for us, she didn't, and the *Scream* series is back for its final installment. *Scream 3* finds our heroine living in Los Angeles, accompanied only by her dog and several security systems. Meanwhile, in Hollywood, production has started on *Stab 3*, the last of a fictional set of movies based on the Woodsboro murders. Hang on, it gets more confusing. Everything is going well on the set and the only blood being shed is the fake kind until the infamous masked killer shows up (again) and begins taking victims. This time, the killer is murdering people based on the script to *Stab 3*. The only problem is that there are three different scripts floating around, and nobody knows which one the killer is following. Pandemonium ensues, and with the help of familiar faces such as Deputy Dewey (David Arquette) and Gale Weathers (Courtney Cox Arquette), Sydney must again try to put a stop to the killer's rampage. Suspenseful and entertaining, *Scream 3* may not be quite as good as its predecessors (certain parts of the story made me think a lot more than I should have for this type of movie), but it comes close. Most importantly, it possesses an ending that will truly surprise you.

Megan Kortemeyer

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Out of Four

Next Friday

Starring: Ice Cube, Mike Epps
Rated: R

Next Friday, the sequel to the hilarious "day in the life" story of Craig Jones (Ice Cube) did not live up to the precedents set by *Friday*.

Despite the frequent use of corny comedy, I can't say I didn't laugh at all. Miss Ho Kym (Amy Hill) was the only character that provided major laughs. She plays a ghetto middle-aged Asian woman. Unfortunately, she appeared only twice throughout the movie.

The main problem with the sequel was that the majority of the characters who appeared in *Friday* did not return for the sequel. Smokey (Chris Tucker), Craig's partner in crime and the best part of the original, did not return. He was replaced by Day-Day (Mike Epps), who provided the slap-stick comedy but not nearly as well.

Another one of the movie's weaknesses was that it featured rappers with no acting experience and even less of a penchant for comedy.

The only redeeming qualities of this movie were the performances of seasoned comedians and actors John Witherspoon and Don "DC" Curry.

If you haven't seen *Next Friday*, don't waste your money.

Leonicia Berry

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Out of Four

Sayaka Fujioka/The Shakerite

The Cider House Rules

Starring: Tobey Maguire, Michael Cain, Charlize Theron
Rated: PG-13

This beautifully photographed film is an adaptation of John Irving's novel about an orphan who leaves his home to find himself. Homer Wells (Tobey Maguire) has lived within the boundaries of a rural orphanage in Maine all of his life. The only parent he has known is the orphanage headmaster, abortion doctor Wilbur Larch (Michael Cain). At the orphanage, Homer serves as a medical aid to his surrogate father, who wants him to become a doctor. Though he refuses to follow in Dr. Larch's footsteps, Homer's medical skills will play an important role later in his life. He dreams of leaving the orphanage and seeing the world, and soon hitches a ride with a young couple and travels to a farm. Here he gets a job in an apple orchard where he lives with a group of African-American migrant workers in the "cider house."

While in the cider house, Homer learns about love, work and himself. Without being sappy, this movie jerks an occasional tear. It has a lot of depth and gives a fresh and different perspective on life while exploring the emotions of a young man. It is a great vacation from the cliche packed, ditsy teen movies. The movie also has a few moments of comic relief as an escape from its serious plot.

Cassie Heller

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Out of Four

The Beach

Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio
Rated: R

Well, I'll say one thing for *The Beach*: It's not *Titanic*. But from there, the positive aspects of this movie are few and far between. The basic story was that a rebellious young man named Richard (Leonardo DiCaprio) takes a trip to Thailand in search of individuality and adventure and ends up on his dream vacation beach with a beautiful French girl (Virginie Ledoyen). The only catch—the girl has a boyfriend and the island on which the beach is situated is inhabited by crazy pseudo-cultist members of what is essentially a secret resort, and crazy M-16-toting marijuana farmers. Paradise itself.

While the movie was not nearly as much of a showcase of Leonardo's rippling pectoral muscles as I expected, it offered little more than creative cinematography and gorgeous scenery. The plot had potential until the end, which built up to a rigorous climax, then dropped like a lemming off a cliff during migration season.

All in all, unless you really, *really*, REALLY like Leonardo DiCaprio, it may not be worth your time and money to see *The Beach*.

Lisa Samols

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Out of Four

Down to You

Starring: Freddie Prinze, Jr., Julia Stiles
Rated: PG-13

Down to You proves, once again, that putting big stars in a movie does not guarantee that it will be good. Hot from their recent hit teen movies, Freddie Prinze Jr. (*She's All That, I Still Know What You Did Last Summer*) and Julia Stiles (*10 Things I Hate about You*) play Al and Imogene, two love-struck college students. Given the terribly odd and fragmented script, the two actors did moderately well, but their performances fell short of stellar.

The plot is somewhat ordinary (they meet, they break up, they get back together) but could have been redeemed by a well-written script and good acting. Unfortunately, both were noticeably absent from the film. Another missing component was on-screen chemistry between the two stars. This in part can be blamed on the awkward, incoherent writing and rough transitions. The movie just didn't seem to flow. One moment the two co-stars are in an art museum; the next they're in bed.

A misconception I had about this movie, besides that it would be *good*, was that it would be funny. Well, it wasn't. In fact, it wasn't even romantic. My advice-skip *Down to You* and see...well, any other movie.

Liza Moody

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Out of Four

Music

D'Angelo

With the release of *Voodoo*, the smooth lyricist, D'Angelo, picks up right where he left off in his debut, multi-platinum hit *Brown Sugar*. His unique blend of hip-hop, jazz and soul hits right in the heart and soul. Unlike many artists, D'Angelo's songs are radio-friendly, all clocking in under five minutes.

"Devil's Pie," which was featured on the *Belly* soundtrack, uses a hip-hop beat to tell of the destruction of the black community. "Left and Right" has more of an old school feel and features rappers Redman and Method Man.

Songs like "Feel Like Makin' Love" and "Greatdayndamornin'" have the feeling of '60s and '70s soul R&B. These tracks resemble songs by Curtis Mayfield. "Untitled (how does it feel)" has a Marvin Gaye type of sound.

"Untitled" has became a hit, not because D'Angelo's similarity to Marvin Gaye, but for its video. It features a half nude D'Angelo and all of his many muscles.

Voodoo is an incredible album that satisfies many musical tastes.

Leonicia Berry

♪♪♪♪

Out of Four

Blue Floyd

Cover bands have been pleasing fans for years and years. If the "real thing" never made it to your city, a cover band probably did, doing their best to emulate the sound and energy that the original group generated.

Blue Floyd may be the best cover band touring today. Comprising members from The Black Crowes, Government Mule and The Allman Brothers Band, Blue Floyd covers Pink Floyd songs with an unusual, yet spectactular "blues" twist. The band performed at the Odeon on Feb. 18.

The evening's highlights included a fine rendition of "Money" with a great bass performance by bassist/vocalist Berry Oakley and an amazing 15 minute drum solo by drummer Matt Abts. These songs, combined with reworked versions of "Another Brick in the Wall," "Shine On You Crazy Diamond" and "Have A Cigar" made for a great evening of live music. The band is wrapping up their tour this month and has plans to release a live album in the future.

Nate Levin

♪♪♪♪

Out of Four

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Winter athletes wrap up seasons

• '99 athletes graduate leaving next generation with large shoes to fill; teams succeed in attempt to rebuild

By Jenny Heisler and Nicole Majorczyk
Sports co-editors

Although Raiders lost a stellar class of athetes when '99 left, Shaker managed to pull off several respectable records this winter.

Last year was indeed a tough act to follow. The men's basketball team came off of an outstanding runner-up finish last year, both the men and women's swim team won districts in '99 for the fourth year in a row, and the hockey team lost last year in the state semifinals to Toledo St. John's.

Needless to say, the class of 1999 left enormous footsteps to follow, as Shaker athletes wished them good-bye last year with bittersweet feelings.

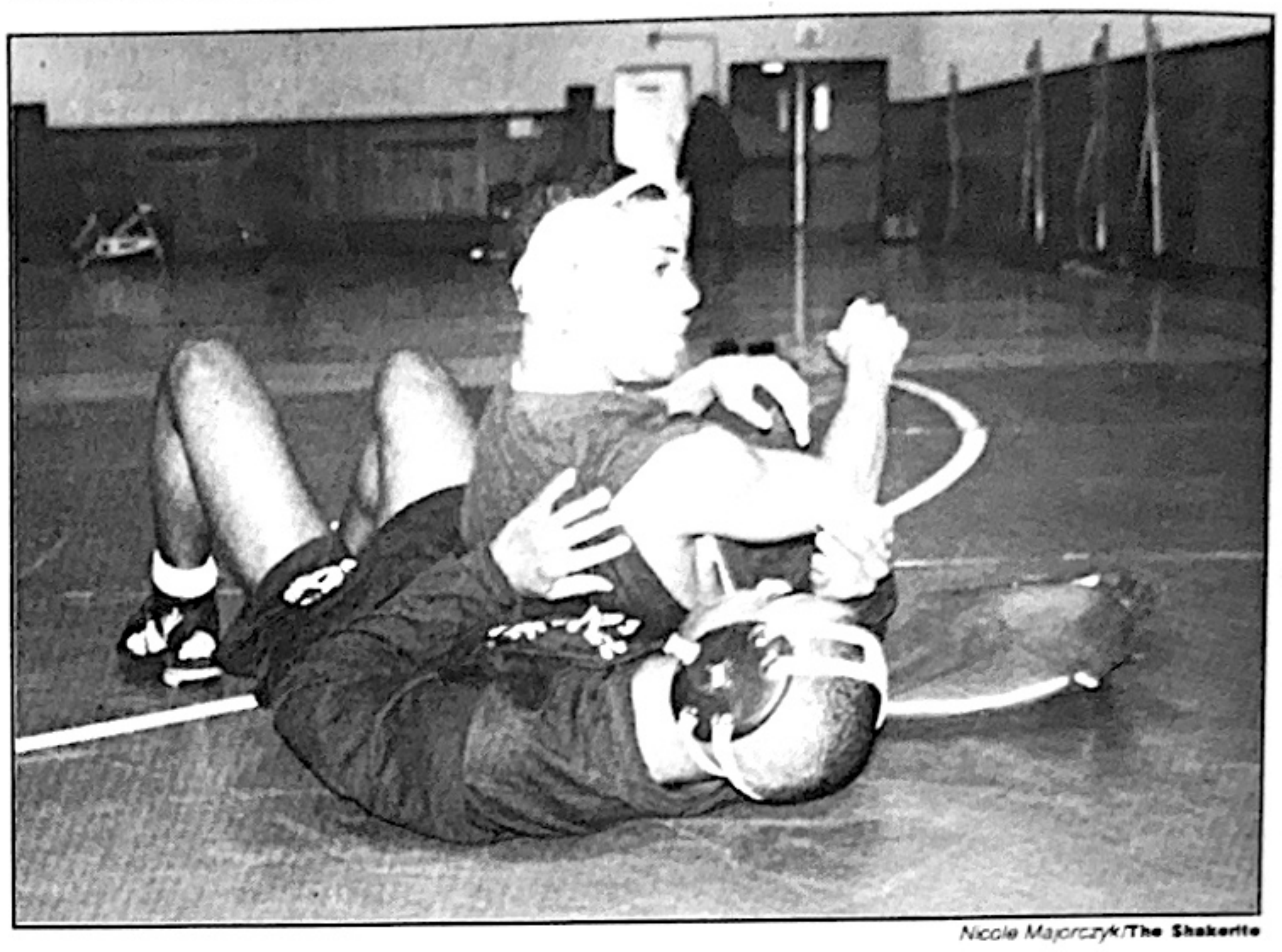
Although '99 shoes have indeed been difficult to fill, winter athletes compiled an out standing combined record of 64-7-14.

WRESTLING

Key Players:
Raychade Nellemsbey
Tim Pope
Brandon Key
Brandon Proctor

Post-season play: qualifying wrestlers will advance to districts begining Feb. 25

Brandon Kee pins his opponent to the ground.



Nicole Majorczyk/The Shakerite

SWIMMING

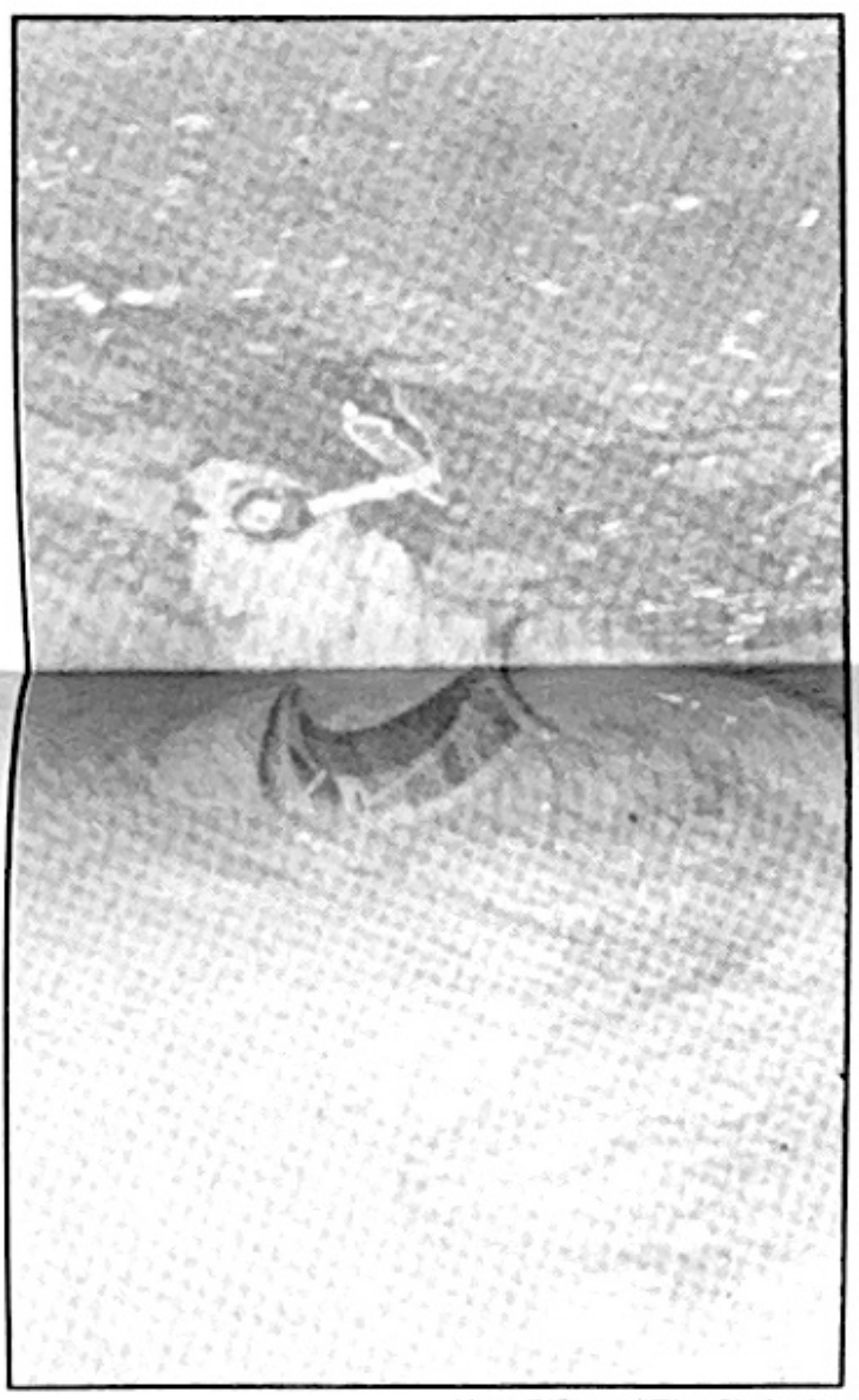
Record:16-0

Post-season play: looking to place states

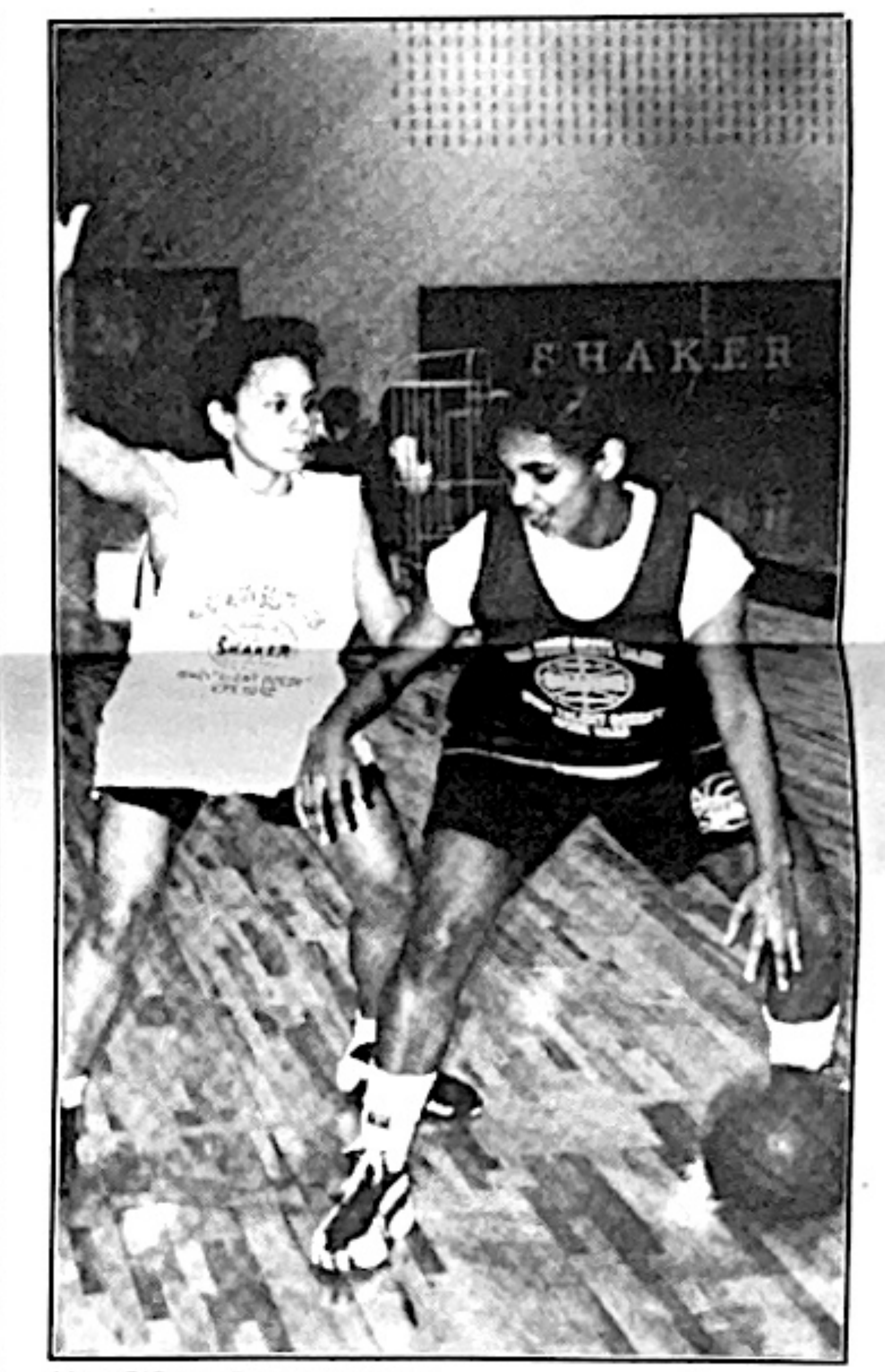
Key Women's Swimmers:
Lynne Hoppe
Jaron Santelli
Caryn Weingart
Lizzie Burns

Key Men's Swimmers:
Chris Ryder
Tommie Jimmison
Matt Schieman
Malcolm Trier
Cleveland Brown

Junior Katie O'Brien will be swimming in the 200 free relay at Canton.



Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite



Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

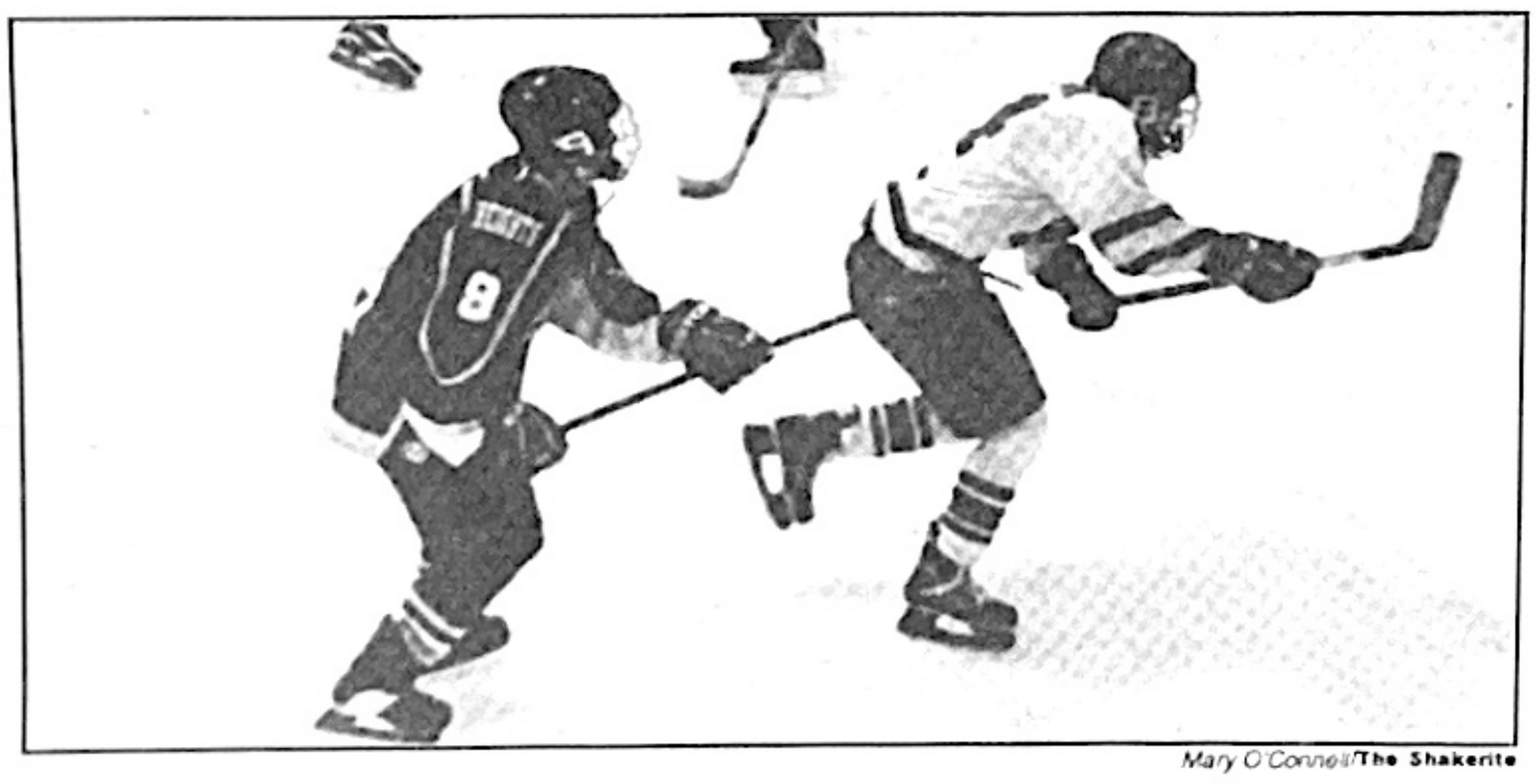
Record:15-5

Key Players:
Christyn Paige
Tracy Jacobs
Nicole Holloway
Erin Pope

Post-season play: **clinched LEL title by beating Mentor 63-54**

Leading scorer:
Tracy Jacbos,
20 pts. per game

Seniors Stephanie, Decautur and Christyn Paige lead the Raiders into sectional play.



Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

David Margolius/The Shakerite

Senior Matt Shenk and sophomore Matt Wallace skate the team to Baron Cup Victory.

HOCKEY

Record: 22-7-1

Post-season play: won Baron Cup, advanced to district play

Key Players:
Rashaun Ewing, Matt Shenk, Howie Dingle, John Dingle Carson Strang, Mike Perrin, Brad Schwarz

David Margolius/The Shakerite

David Margolius/The Shakerite

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Post-season play: regular season concludes Feb. 25

Record: 11-8

Key Players: Matt Baringer, Marcus Nash, Daryll Knight, Delvin Harris

Junior Jamison Evans is the leading scorer of the Raider squad.

RAIDERS D-UP AND PIN THEIR WAY TO VICTORY

• Holloway's defense ignites Raiders

Sport: Basketball

Year: Sophomore

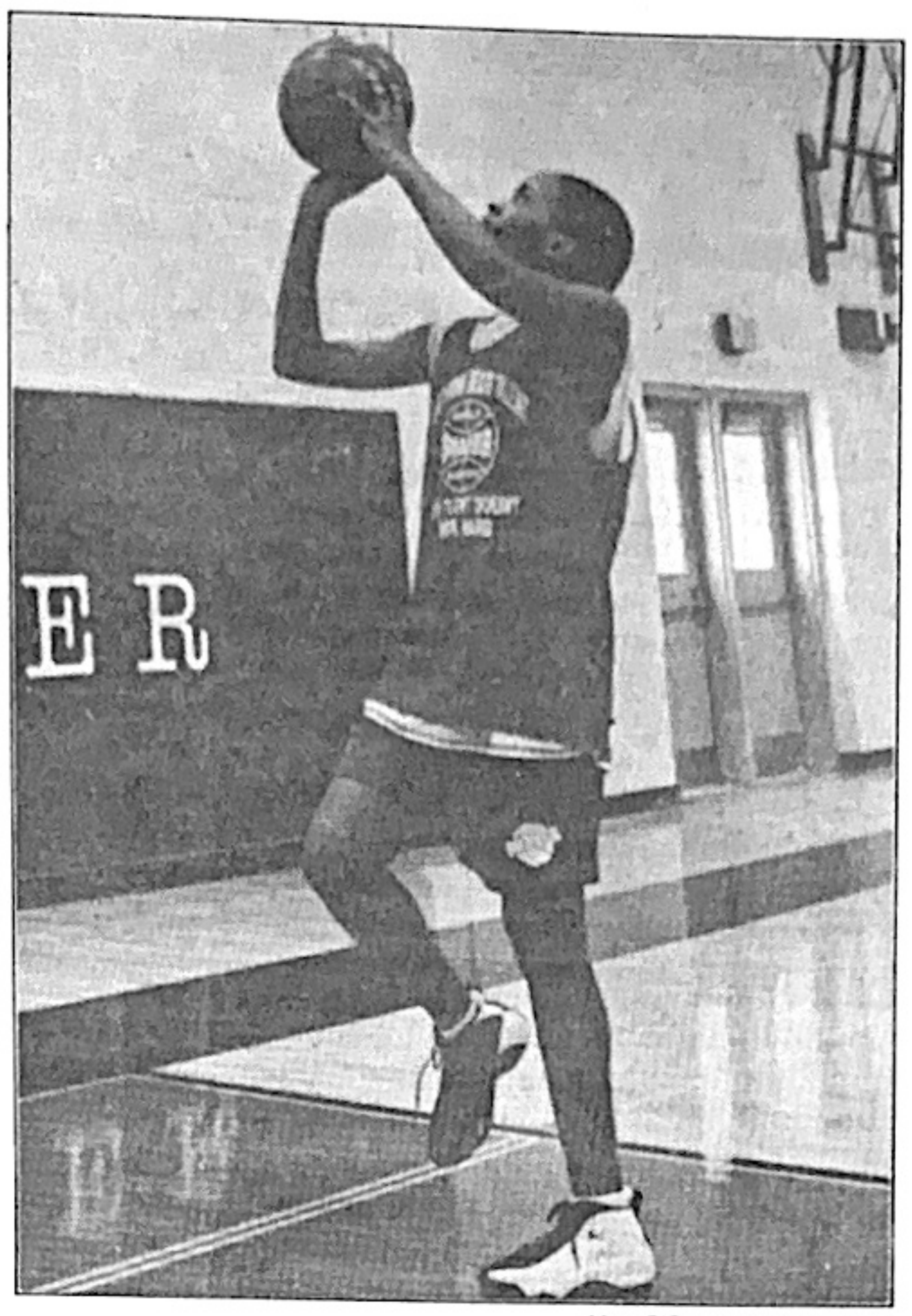
Achievement: Holloway has worked her way up to a starting position this season. She averages 5.2 points and 3 rebounds a game. Her best game thus far was against Lakewood; she totaled 12 points, 2 steals, 3 assists, and went 6-for-10 from the floor.

Teammate's Comment: "Nicole is great. She is always working hard and trying her best."
-sophomore Kendra Agee

Favorite Game: "My favorite game was when we beat Mentor, who was ranked ahead of us."

Coach's Comment: "Nicole has a done a tremendous job playing D. She has really managed to hold her own."
-head coach
Susan Brown

Jenny Heisler


Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite

Holloway's defense has helped the Raiders to a 15-5 team record. Sometimes she takes on players who are a half a foot taller.

Nicole Holloway

"NICOLE DOES ALL OF THE LITTLE THINGS THAT WIN THE GAMES." -SOPHOMORE KENDRA AGEE

• Proctor tosses, thrashes his rivals

Sport: Wrestling

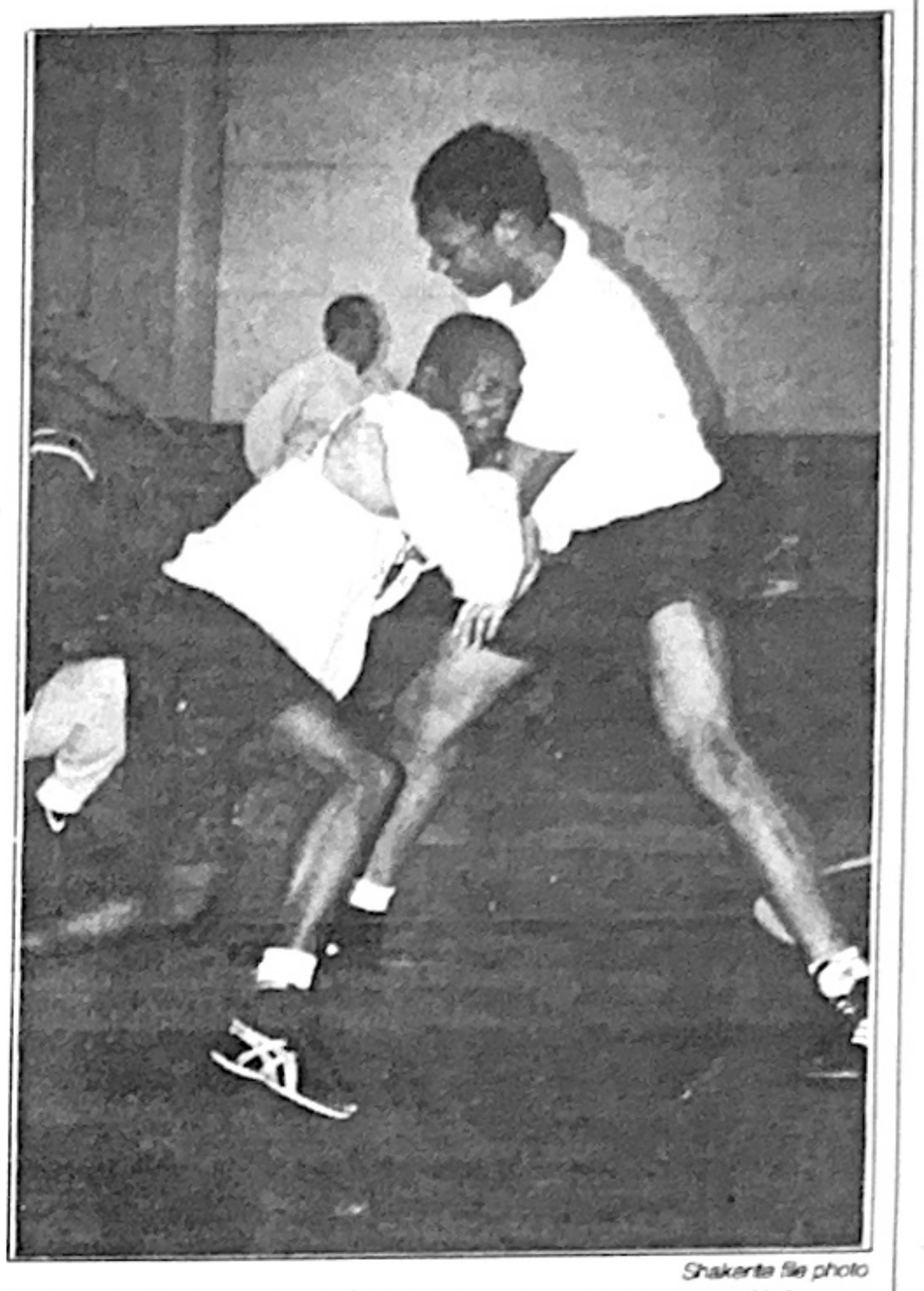
Year: Junior

Achievement: Proctor has 50 career wins, which contribute to his 1999 sectional champion title. He is a Richmond Heights Tournament champion, Solon Relays runner-up, seventh place finish at the Austintown Fitch Tournament and two time district qualifier. Currently, Proctor is 22-9.

Coach's Comment: "Brandon is a self-made kid. He began as a freshman and only won one match. He has progressed to the top where he is one of the top 189-pound wrestlers in the area and is a team captain. I really think it is because of hard work and a good attitude."
-head coach Hank Kornblut

Future Plans: Proctor would like to play football in college

Nicole Majorczyk


Shakerite file photo

Junior Brandon Proctor leads the wrestling team by qualifying for districts for the second consecutive year.

Brandon Proctor

"FRESHMAN YEAR AGAINST LAKEWOOD, I WON MY FIRST AND ONLY VARSITY MATCH. IT WAS GREAT!"

BARON
FROM PAGE 20
• Hockey blazes trail

have to fight hard to repeat the title. Senior Brad Schwarz put the final goal past the St. Ed's goalie on a rebound four minutes into the period. For the rest of the period, both teams threatened continuously to score, but Shaker's freshman goalie, Daniel Koletsky, held his ground

"It was really intense," Koletsky said. "But I knew I had to be strong because winning the Baron Cup is such a tradition at Shaker."

The Raiders won two games to qualify for the game against St. Ed's. By defeating University School 1-0 Feb.10 with a goal in the first period by junior Carson Strang (assisted by junior Syed Ali), Shaker advanced to play St. Ignatius Feb. 12.

Probably the season for come-from-behind victories, the Ignatius game had fans on the edge of their seats.

Senior Mike Perrin scored the first goal of the game, putting the Raiders ahead 1-0. However, during a painful second period, Shaker fell behind 4-1 to the Wildcats.

Though the going looked tough throughout a majority of the third period, in the last 3:37 of the game, seniors Shenk, Perrin and co-captain Rashaun Ewing put goals past the Ignatius defense to tie the game, forcing a sudden death overtime.

"Our coach really stressed upon us that for some reason a three-goal lead doesn't really last," Ewing said. "We knew all we needed was one quick goal to get us rolling."

Ewing didn't hesitate to send the Raiders to the finals, as he knocked one in 34 seconds later.

"I was shocked that they won," said junior hockey fan Sam Zimmer.

The team has faith that this win will help them advance to states.

"This [Baron Cup title] acts as a very large catalyst in our quest for a state title," said Strang.

Koletsky agreed.

"Winning the cup is just another step to getting to states," he said.

Perrin hopes that this may be the year the Raiders will clinch states.

"It's really special to have won the Baron Cup three years in a row, but I think the seniors who have experienced it twice already would trade them all for a state title," he said.

Two years ago, Perrin was on the team that lost in overtime of the state finals to Bowling Green; last year, he was on the team that lost in the state semifinals to Toledo St. John's. Needless to say, it appears that these Raiders are due.

"We know that teams will be out for us," Ewing said, "but that will just help us rise to the occasion."

"We're ready for one last run at the title, and all of us are ready to sacrifice anything to win," Perrin said.

> *"We're ready for one last run at the title, and all of us are ready to sacrifice anything to win."*
>
> MIKE PERRIN
> senior

'99
FROM PAGE 20
• Graduates star in collegiate play

weeks and will miss the remainder of the Golden Panther season.

While Tucker was blazing the hardwood in the Miami heat, former Raider football player Adrien Clarke has been pumping iron in the frostbitten tundra of Columbus, hoping to crack the Buckeyes' lineup as a red-shirt freshman.

"Adrien is a very popular kid, very pleasant," Ohio State coach John Cooper said. "He's still got a little baby fat, but we've been pleased with his effort in our winter conditioning program. We're counting on him to start or play for us next year at tackle or at guard," Cooper said.

Kevin Foster and Tyson Barnes, teammates on last year's basketball juggernaut, are both lacing up hightops for Cuyahoga Community College.

Three members of last year's state runner-up hockey team are skating the ice for club squads at their respective schools.

Former standout wingman Joe Simon joined Bowling Green's Club hockey team, Steven Strang skates for Miami of Ohio's club team, and former Raider goalie Scott Graham is stuffing the net for Penn State's club unit.

Last winter, Jeff Klug and Paul Bosley tore through the water, qualifying as All-American swimmers on Shaker's dominant men's swim team. Now, Klug is standing out at Emory University, swimming the 100 and 200 yard backstroke for the Eagles.

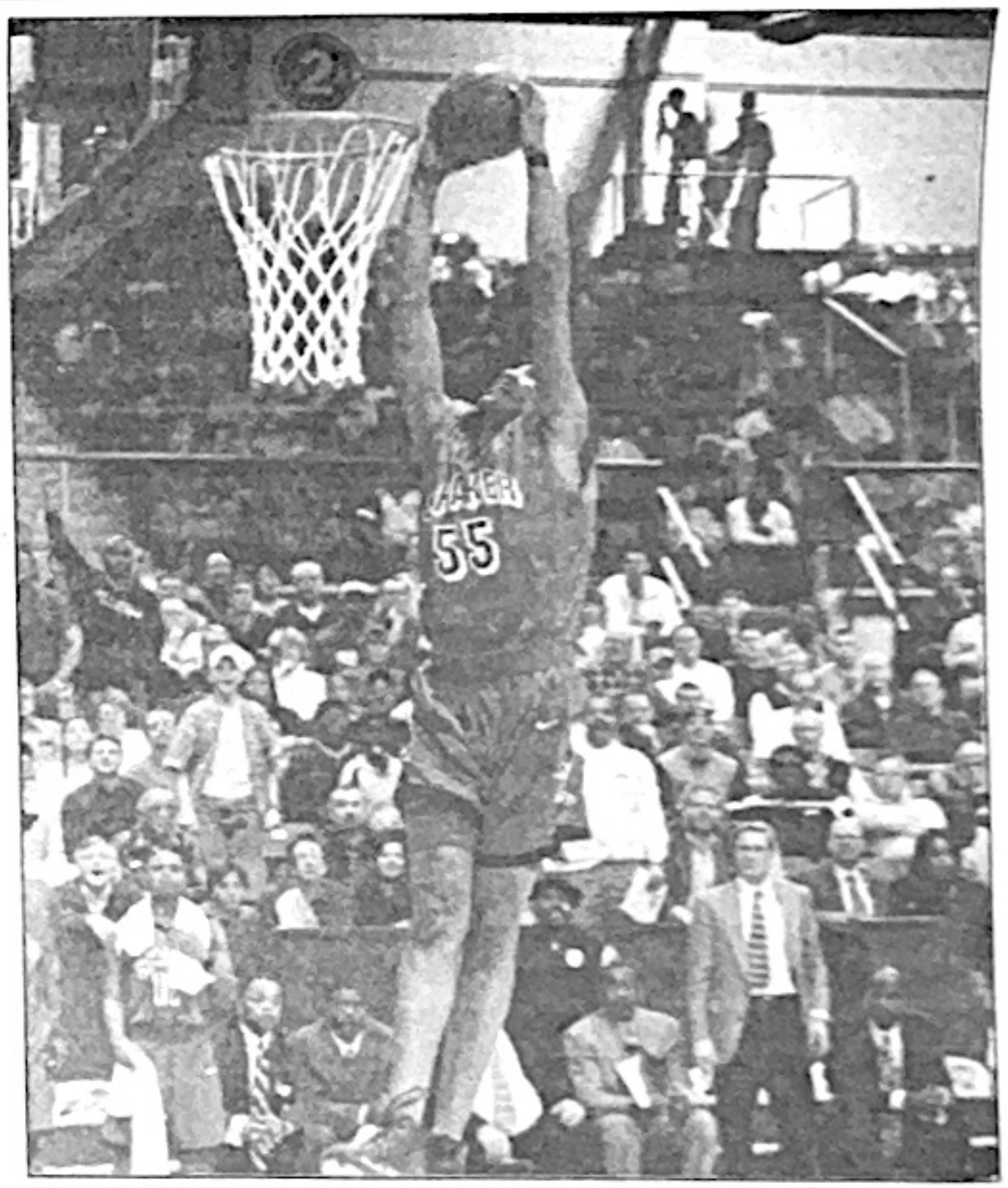
At Denison University in Ohio, Bosley is swimming freestyle for the Big Red varsity and is described by former coach Ernest Welsch as an "All-American caliber college swimmer."

Tom Fallon, former Shaker football and lacrosse starter, looks to earn a spot on UMASS's 15th ranked lacrosse team in the spring.

Sarah Loney and '98 alum Meg Underwood, former crew teammates, are rowing for American and Cornell universities, respectively.

James Blanton is wrestling at 174-lbs for Howard University's varsity team.

Kentura Armstrong, former SHHS starter, is playing basketball for the University of Charleston.


Shakerite archives

Michael Tucker, who played on Shaker's state runner-up basketball team last year, now plays for Florida International University.

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SPORTS

Athletic ACTS

Winter sports conclude, season round-ups

SPORTS, page 18

By Anahid Thompson
Opinion co-editor

We are athletes too, you know

Rowing is scoffed at by our peers. As I see it, the problem with representation of crew in our school is not only that it is a women's team, but also that most people know relatively little about the sport.

Sure, rowing is not the most highly publicized sport in the world and not the most interesting (except for those involved in the rowing world). However, the media not favoring rowing does not account for labeling crew as a merely frivolous form of entertainment.

Rowing is more than a group of privileged white kids who lollygag up and down the river enjoying the scenery. Crew demands a serious amount of work and intensity.

As a rower, I am surprised to hear how many people have been misinformed about the nature of the sport. Many are under the impression that success in crew hinges solely on upper body strength and endurance. This is completely false. Due to the slide of the seat, 80 percent of a rower's power comes from her legs, and muscle fatigue in the legs is what causes a crew team to lose a race. Furthermore, crew is regarded by leading fitness experts as the sport that requires the most endurance. Yes, my aquatic friends, on many levels it is tougher than swimming.

Crew is not a sport in which the individual can excel; it requires everyone to work together to increase the speed of the boat and gain distance on the other crews. If a crew is out of sync, it will lose time on the water and perhaps the race.

Rowing demands precision and perfection with every stroke, even at the end of a 3.5 mile race when the entire crew is exhausted, can no longer feel their legs and cannot remember what it's like to breathe normally.

Rowing is an intense competition where every second counts, and I believe it is discredited by our school.

Crew is a sport that has endured for more than a century and is worthy of far more recognition in our school than it receives.

'99 graduates make the grade in collegiate play

• Outstanding athletes perform in collegiate events, add to success of college teams

By Dan George
Staff reporter

As a hotbed for athletic talent, Shaker has a long-standing reputation for promoting athletes into the college ranks.

The class of '99 was no exception, as dozens of last year's seniors dispersed to campuses across the country and began contributing immediately.

After suffering a career-threatening knee injury two summers ago, many colleges cooled their pursuit of former Raider basketball player John Higgins.

The University of Tennessee, enticed by Higgins' court leadership ability and crisp shooting touch, took a chance, however, and inked Higgins to a scholarship last June.

Tennessee's risk has paid dividends, as a healthy Higgins is contributing quality minutes to the 14th ranked Vols. Averaging 6.7 points, 3 rebounds and 2.1 assists per contest, Higgins has been beamed onto television screens across America on ESPN during games against Florida, Auburn and Kentucky.

Florida International University freshman Michael Tucker, an All-Ohio forward and teammate of Higgins on last year's state runner-up basketball team, had been a bright spot on the Golden Panther's 10-6 squad until a recent knee injury.

As a key bench player for International, Tucker was scoring 4.8 points a game and grabbing 3.4 rebounds per contest. The 6'5" forward had also swatted away a team best 23 blocked shots.

Tucker helped Florida to an undefeated mark in Sun Belt Conference action and into contention for a birth in March's NCAA Tournament.

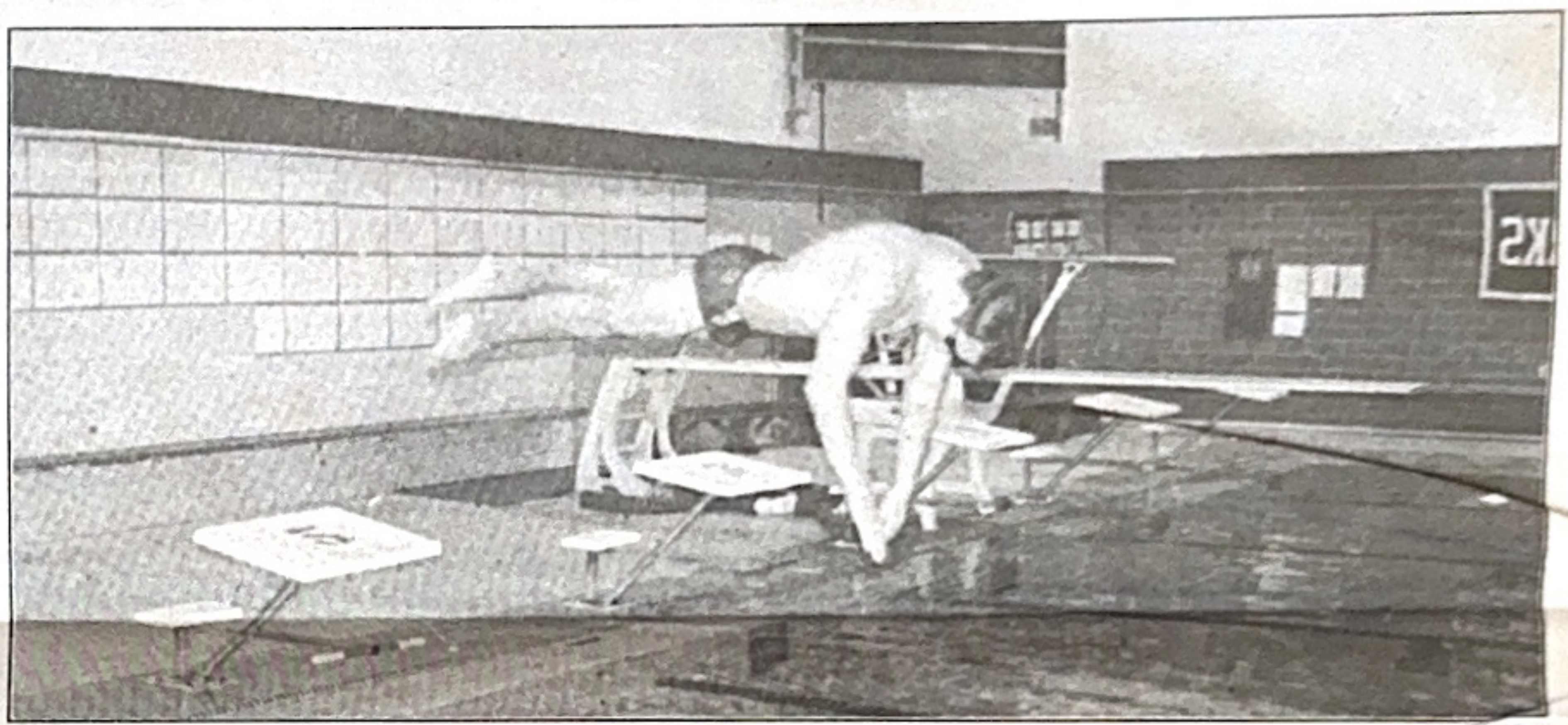
According to Rick Klech, assistant athletic director at FIU, Tucker tore his anterior cruciate ligament during a contest against South Alabama University on Feb. 15. The freshman will have surgery within the next few

SEE '99, PAGE 19

Swimmers look to states

• Numerous Raiders will swim in Canton

By Jenny Heisler
Sports co-editor



The Shakerite archives

Junior Chris Ryder qualified for the 200 individual medley with a personal best time of 1:58.86.

Though the Shaker swimmers failed to finish first in what would have been their fifth consecutive district title, many Raiders qualified for the state tournament.

The men's swim team came away with a fourth place finish, beat out by powerhouse St. Ignatius who finished first. Don't count out these Raiders at states however, as all relays qualified at Cleveland State last weekend. The 200 medley relay finished second, the 200 free qualified and the 400 free relay qualified with a time of 3:16.06.

Junior Cleveland Brown qualified in both the 50 and 100 free events, respectively, with times of 21.38 and 47.52. Junior Matt Schieman qualified for the 100 fly, along with senior Malcolm Trier. Trier also will be swimming the 100 back in Canton. Senior Tommie Jimmison will be swimming the 100 breast at states, having finished with a time of 58.71. Junior Chris Ryder qualified for the 200 individual medley with a time of 1:58.86.

The women Raiders left with a second place finish, beat out by Magnificat. Like the men, all women relays qualified to go Canton; the 200 medley relay qualified, the 200 free relay finished first with a time of 1:39.91, and the 400 free relay finished fourth.

Junior Jaron Santelli qualified in the 50 free, with a time of 25.23. Freshman Lizzie Burns qualified in both the 100 breast and 200 individual medley. Junior Lynne Hoppe qualified for both the 100 fly and 100 back with respective times of 1:00.14 and 1:00.65. Sophomore Caryn Weingart will also be swimming at states in the 200 free event.

David Margolius/The Shakerite

Senior Matt Shenk will help the Raiders in the state tournament.

Hockey team defeats St. Ed's for third straight Baron Cup

• Squad rides momentum into state tourney

By Jenny Heisler
Sports co-editor

Three-peat: One word to describe the Shaker hockey team that clinched the Baron Cup title for the third year in a row Feb. 13.

The team tossed gloves and helmets into the air and held the Baron Cup trophy high after defeating a tough St. Edward squad, 2-1.

The victory was no piece of cake, for St. Ed's wanted this Division I title just as much as the Raiders. After the first period, Shaker trailed 1-0.

However, Shaker came out looking stronger in the second period, as sophomore John Dingle fired on past the St. Ed's goalie to tie the game.

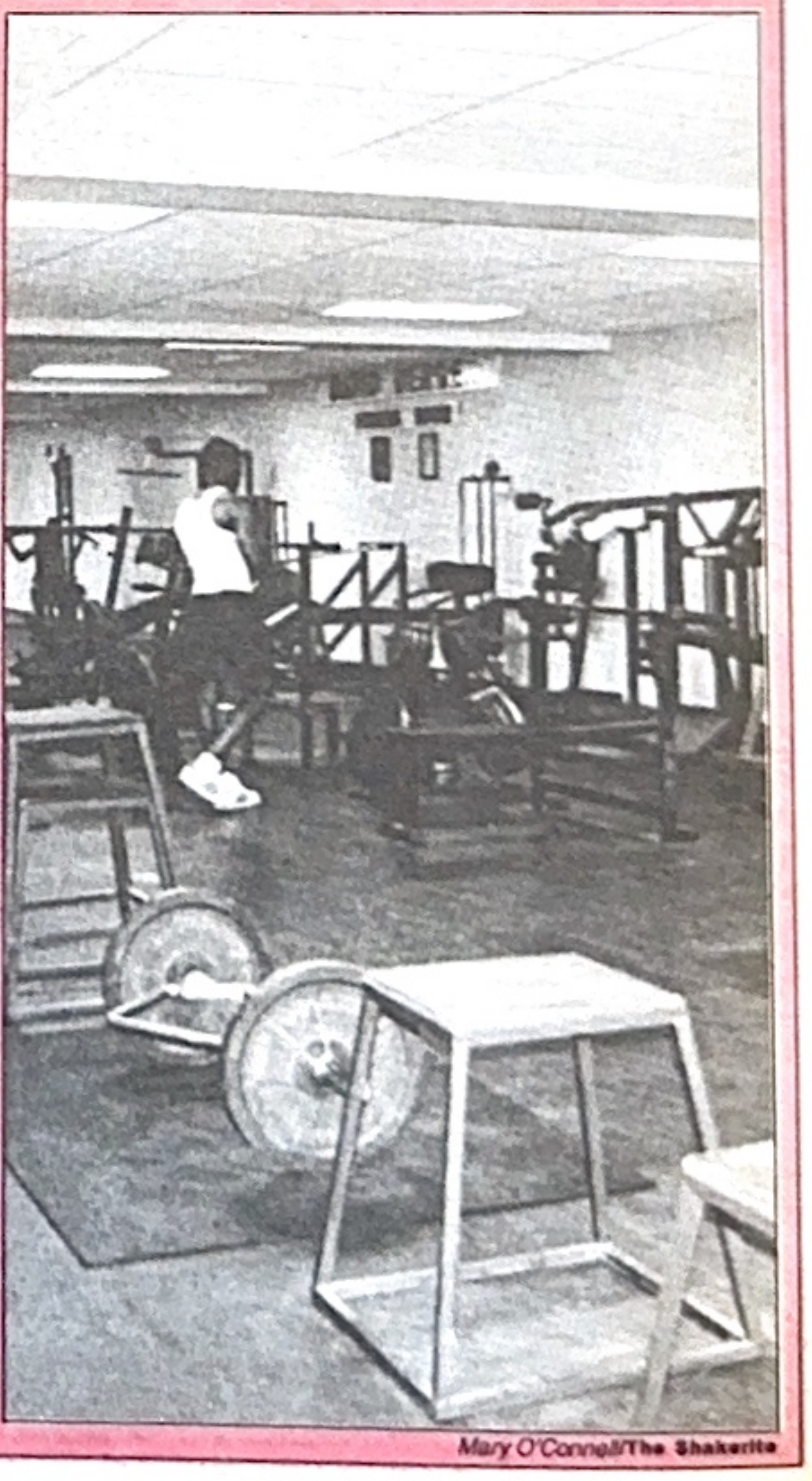
"We were just confident that we could get the job done," senior Matt Shenk said. "I don't think anyone was very nervous."

Early on in the third period, the Raiders knew they would

SEE BARON, PAGE 19

PUMPING SOME IRON

"The new weight room doesn't smell as bad," junior football player Mike Moore said. "There is a lot more space; the other one was way too small. This one is just bigger and cleaner." The new weight facility is located under the new north gym. Though new equipment is yet to be purchased, the space offers weightlifters more room to move around. Athletes use the room before, during and after school. The new location allows lifters to grunt and play music without disturbing classes.



Mary O'Connell/The Shakerite